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THE IMPOSTOR EXPOS'D, IN A DISSECTION OF A VILLANOUS LIBELL,

(*Here Printed at large*) Entituled,

A LETTER *to a Person of Honour, concerning the* BLACK-BOX.

O *Virtutis inanem custodiam sui, si alieno scelere potest esse Deformis!* Euphorm. Apolog. *Pars* 3.
Quæ sæva Multitudinis Fides, *in qua, quid fervet, cuilibet impune peccare est.* Argenis.

LONDON:
Printed for *J. V.* and are to be Sold by *Dan. Brown*, at the *Black-Swan* and *Bible* without *Temple-Barr*, and *J. Walthoe* at the *Black-Lyon* in *Chancery-Lane*, over against *Lincolns-Inn*, 1683.

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THE IMPOSTOR EXPOS'D, IN A DISSECTION OF VILLAINY, (Never Yet Published.) A LETTER to a Person of Honour, concerning the BLACK-BOX.

MVSEVM BRITANNICVM

O Virtus immensa! cupiendam pro, & alieno fecisse periclo
Cui Deforme? Hinphorm. Apolog. Thes 3.
Quæ sera Multitudinis Fides, in qua, quid ferret,
Utilius, nunquam peccare ejt. Argenis.

LONDON:
Printed for J. N. and are to be Sold by Dan. Brown, at the Black-Swan and Bible without Temple-Bar, and J. Walthoe at the Black-Lyon in Chancery-Lane, over against Lincoln's-Inn, 1697.

The Impostor Expos'd,

IN A

DISSECTION

OF A

Villanous Libel, &c.

The Introduction.

SECTION I.

THough I have fresh in Memory not a few Pregnant Instances of the Danger, and Unsuccessfulness, accompanying Generous Attempts

to ſtem the Tide of a *Popular Prejudice*; though I am well aware of the odious Scandals, and Reflections, that are ſtill heap't upon ſuch as preſume to work againſt the Grain of a *Vulgar Caprice*; or to be ſo unfaſhionably Singular, as not to tune up their *Zeal* a Note above (**Ela**) the Higheſt in the **Gamut**: Nay, though I am ſenſibly Conſcious of my own great *Inſufficiency*, as well in point of Perſonal Abilities, as of a Competent Acquaintance with the Privacies of the *Cabinet*, and the leſs Secret Reſolutions and Tranſactions of *State*: Yet, being ſtrongly of Belief, that the pretended *Letter to a Perſon of Honour, concerning the* **Black Box**, is a Libel of a Quality ſo tranſcendantly Lewd, that *Hell*

(per-

(perhaps) never Dictated, *Mercenary* Scribled, nor *Light* Beheld a more Villanous; that almoſt every *Page* of it is ſtuff't with Treaſon, and each individual *Paragraph* with the ranckeſt Falſhood, Sedition, Inſolence, Slander, and Detraction, that can be imagin'd; and that, in the Original Intent of it, it was expreſly Calculated for the Deſtruction of the *Beſt Prince*, the Subverſion of the *Beſt Government*, the Extirpation of the *Pureſt Religion*, and the Being, or rather Name it ſelf, of the *Happyeſt People* this Day under the Cope of Heaven: I am irreſiſtibly hurry'd-on by Impulſes of *Duty* and *Allegiance*, (ſince *Broader Shoulders* do not enter the *Liſts*) to take up the *Gantlet*, and endeavour, what in me lyeth, to

Condemn this *Proſtitute* to ſuffer by a Weak Hand; ſo effectually to Conjure down this *Evil Spirit*, Extinguiſh this *Glaring Comet*, that it may never again Appear to the Frightment and Annoyance of the *Peaceable*; to Antidote the Poyſon, and ſtop the Peſtilential Influence of this *Viperous Impoſtor*, by Unmasking and Blazoning him in his Proper Colours, to the Eye of the World.

And ſo very ſecure am I in the Uprightneſs of my *Heart*, and the Innocence of my *Meaning*; that I do as little *apprehend*, as *deſign* any ſort of Offence, *Hereby*, to the Honeſt and Sober: Beſide that, if in an *Age* which ſeems to have Epitomiz'd all the Wickedneſs of former Times, and where Vice is in the *Full*, Virtue

in

in the *Wain*; if, in a *Nation* where Extremity preſcribes to all Proceedings, and where Paſſions are inflam'd, Parties prepar'd, and all manner of bad Humors fatally predominant, *Pamphlets* of this Diabolical Purport be ſuffer'd to ſtalk about, without a Brand of Publick Infamy, and it ſhall become unſafe for the *Friends* of the *Conſtitution* to Combat the Enemies of it; There will ſoon (I fear me) be too much Reaſon to dread a *Relapſe* into the ſame Abyſs of Calamities, wherein, by our Sins and Follies, we were ſo lately, ſo deſperately plung'd; a *Repetition* of all the Miſeries, and Violences, that by the *Army*, the *Rump*, and other *Architects* of our Slavery, were brought upon us in the Dayes of

Fiery Tryal: that our Temples will be turn'd into Stables, Fonts into Horse-Troughs, and Altars Sacrilegiously profan'd by the Hot-headed *Fanatick*; that the Bread will be torn out of our Childrens Mouths, our Substance devour'd, our Wives and Daughters Ravish'd before our Eyes, by the Hireling *Souldier*; that our Laws and Liberties will lye agonizing at the Foot of *Faction* and *Tyranny*; and that we must again deliver up our selves to be *Tenants in Courtesie* for all we have, to a Knot of Beggarly Raskals, back't with the Sword.

Now, to gratify a *Curiosity* that it would be Impolitick to disoblige; to make it evident, that I deal frankly, and give my Adversary fair Play, the very Me-

thod

thod alſo of my **Diſſection** neceſſarily requiring it; I have ventur'd to Print this *Counterfeit* of a Letter *verbatim*, and at large, and to Expoſe it, together with my *Little Remarks*, to Open Cenſure: And *This* too, in Confidence that, (how much ſo ever the *Truth* may have ſuffer'd by ſo feeble a *Patronage*, yet) thus attended, the *Snake* will endure to be familiarly approach'd and handl'd, without Harm, from his *Sting*; that *Good Men* muſt needs hold this vile **Impoſture** in an Abhorrency and Deteſtation, equal to its Deſerts; and that the *People*, (for ſuch, and no other, are the *Ends* propoſed, in *This Publication*) upon ſo full a View of the Traps and Snares, thus craftily laid for their Peace and Well-

Wellfare, will be more Cautious, than *Heretofore*, how they follow each Flash of *Wild-Fire*, and dance after every *New-Whistle*; will not sacrifice all their *present Comforts*, to an Eager and Pensive Sollicitation for *Uncertainties*; but, for *what's to come*, less anxiously depend upon the *Sufficiency* of an Almighty *Providence*, and the Eminent *Prudence* and *Goodness* of a Gracious *Sovereign*. —— The **Libel** begins Thus.

SECT.

SECT. II.

LETTER.

My Lord,

YOU are pleaſed to command me, to give you ſome Account of the Foundation of that Report, which hath arrived with You concerning a Black Box; *and withal, to let you know how Sir* Gilbert Gerard *acquitted himſelf at his Appearance before the* KING, *and* Council, *in reference to that Affair.*

ANSWER. What Firmneſs or Stability can fairly be hop'd from a *Building*, the *Foundation* whereof is laid in the *Sand?* What Truth or Integrity from the *Sequel* of a *Diſcourſe*, that is *Introduc'd* by an Egregious *Falſity?* And that ſuch is the Caſe. *Here*, Morality exacts a Confidence, and

and is in Reſaon manifeſt: For, Could there be a more Heinous Affront to the Statute *de Scandalis Magnatum*, to the whole Body of the True *Engliſh Peerage*, than to ſuppoſe any one Member of it ſo Regardleſs or Inſenſible of the Pulſes of Faith and Honour, as either to command or conceal a *Letter* of this Villainous Drift, together with the *Penner* of it? So Perfect a Stranger to the very Eſſentials of his *Character*, as to be new to learn, That it is greatly below the Generoſity of ſuch Blood, as derives from the Senſe of Martial Proweſs, and Heroick Atchievments (the Original of *Arms* and *Herauldry*) to entertain ſo much as a Thought of Advancing it ſelf upon any Unworthyer a Bottom, than that of pure *Merit*; and infinitely ſo, upon the Ignoble Motives of an Invidious Maceration at the Preferment of others, or a loſs of its proper Pretenſions, at one and the ſame time, to abandon its own Allegiance, and labour to debauch the Unwary into the Service of its Luſts, and Animoſities,

ſities, ſhrouded under the Plauſible Banner of **Liberty** and **Reformation**? Nay, ſo little edify'd by a View of the Diſmal Rewards in all Ages, and as well by the *Help't*, as the *Harm'd*, collated upon Perfidious *Traitors*, (who have ſtill Expir'd by the *Sword*, the *Ax*, or the *Halter*) as not to be fully convinc'd, that *Loyalty* is both his Duty, and his Intereſt; that his Weal or Woe is intirely bound up (as the *Ivy* to the *Oak*) in that of his *Prince*, (the Fountain of Honour) & that any Warping from the *Rule*, muſt neceſſarily either proſtitute him to the Inſolencies of his Inferiors, rais'd by an *Uſurper* to curb, and awe him; or elſe, under a *Common-Wealth* (to which, Equality of Degree is incident) reduce him to a Level with the Lacquay, to a Parity with the Mechanick? So that, had not a Principle of Self-Preſervation, that Vulgar Maxim of the Order, *Never appear before the Eleventh Hour, even in Succeſsful Rogueries*, and the Palpableneſs of the *Cheat* it ſelf (which, without a Plauſible Cover, could

could not have been Proof even againſt the weakeſt Eye) over-rul'd and confin'd the *Whim* of this *Will with a Wiſp*, and render'd ſuch a Pretence of Abſolute Neceſſity; ſo Volatile a *Politicaſtor* would undoubtedly have left the common Road of Dedicating *Hereſie* and *Sedition* to this or t'other nameleſs *Lord* or *Lady*; and, in imitation of the more aſſuming Mercenaries of the *Quill*, addreſs'd this Over-grown *Epiſtle* of his to the *Man in the Moon*, or the *Mayor of Quininborough*.

LET. *As to the* Firſt, *I muſt crave Leave to diſtinguiſh betwixt what is* Material *in that Buſineſs, and what is meerly* Circumſtantial, *and ſerveth only by way of* Purad.

ANS. Were not this notable *Sophiſter* perverſly bent to abuſe his Talent to the prejudicing of the Truth, nothing leſs could be expected from the Maſter of much Method and Diſtinction, than a Deciſion to a Hairs-

breadth

breadth of the weighty Controverſies touching the Number of the Predicaments, Predicables, Cauſes, and Figures and Moods of *Syllogiſms*; touching the Preference of an *Even* or *Odd* Number, the Perfecteſt between *Three*, *Six*, and *Ten*, and *God*'s Ability to have Created the World without *Their* Aſſiſtance; about the Diſtinguiſhing and Order of Conſtruing the *Parts of Speech*, and (to couple greater Trifles with leſs) the words *from*, *through*, *is*, *unleſs*, *until*, &c. that have occaſioned ſuch unhappy Schiſms and Diſtractions in the *Church*; the Number of the *Pronouns*, and whether *Gerunds* are *Nouns* or *Verbs*; touching the Right *Quadrature* of the *Circle*, the *Line* truly Equal to the *Side*, the Number of the *Spheres*, *Their* and the *Fixt Stars* Motion; In Brief, the innumerable alike furious, and important Diſputes of the Schools. And indeed, ſuch were an Exerciſe infinitely more Congruous to the Genius and Capacity of this Dapper *Letterato*, than his preſent Employment of *Scribler*;

bler-General of Rhapsodies of Pragmatick Smatterings upon the Points of the *Succession of Crowns*, and the *Powers* and *Prerogatives* of *Kings* and *Parliaments*.

LET. *Your* Lordship, *whose Conversation hath given you great Advantages of knowing the Reports of the World, in relation to the* KING's *Mariage with the Duke of* Monmouths Mother, *can easily recollect, that there was never so much as a Suggestion given out till of late, of any such thing as a* Black Box, *nor of a Writing importing a Contract, consigned by the late* Lord *of* Durham *to the Custody of Sir* Gilbert Gerard.

ANS. I gain-say not, that by impudently Publishing in Print the *Letter*, he would have us believe, he sent to I know not what *Nobleman*, he has undenyably made good his Subscription of *Your Lordships most Humble Servant*: But only take notice, that he had so much Sight in his Malice,

as

as to forget to pleaſure us with an Aſſurance, whether his *Lordſhip* could unbethink himſelf as he would have him, yea, or no: So that I cannot be ſaid to paſs a *Contradiction* upon his *Honour*, in affirming, That the Rumour of a certain *Biſhop*'s Marrying the *K.* to Mrs. *W.* bears exactly the ſame Date with the Report of the Marriage it ſelf, and *Both* derive from the Critical Minute of the *D.* of *Y*'s refuſing to Take the *Oaths*, according to the Form of a Statute of *Car.* 2. Neither is this an Aſſertion at Random, or without Warrant; for *Richard Green*, in *fol.* 2. of his *Narrative* of the *Popiſh Maſſacre*, is poſitive, that ſometime before *Feb.* $167\frac{8}{9}$. or $\frac{9}{0}$. he us'd theſe Words to one Mr. *Boyer* of *Hereford-ſhire*, viz. *The* Duke *of* Monmouth *is Legitimate, for Mr.* Benge *of* Pembridge *told Me, That a very Honeſt Gentleman*, (as Honeſt as Sir *G. G.* himſelf) *told Him, That a* Biſhop *told Him, He Marryed His* Majeſty *to the* Duke *of* Monmouth's *Mother*. Upon which Paſſage, Dr. *Tonge*

(by whoſe Permiſſion the Book was ſet forth, and whoſe juſt Praiſes it lively Exhibits) reflects thus: *Here it may be noted* (ſayes he) *by what falſe, ſlye, and pernicious Inſinuations, and Suggeſtions, the* Jeſuits *ſowe the Seeds of Sedition and Rebellion in the Minds of Simple, and Well meaning Perſons of all Degrees; as here, in the preſent Caſe, pretending and raiſing* Falſe Titles *to the Crown, and thereby dividing the Loyal Subjects thereof into Bloody Feuds and Reſolutions; which Practices are dangerous to the Kingdom of* England, *above all others*, &c. I cannot paſs over another remarkable Period in *Fol.* 4. of the ſame *Pamphlet*, tho it be ſome-what leſs pertinent to the Matter in Hand; *viz. I omitted This* (meaning a *Papiſt*'s intimating the long *Prorogation* in 167$\frac{4}{5}$. to have been made purely in *Their* Favour) *on purpoſe, becauſe I look't upon it to be one of their* Jeſuitical *Forgeries, whereby they thought to Encourage* Proteſtants *that were but weak-principled, to become their Proſelytes; and alſo to animate and provoke to Rebellion againſt the*

the King's *Sacred Perſon, and the Eſtabliſh't Government, all thoſe* Phanatical *Parties, which they by their Buſy, Subtle, and Deviliſh Policies, have torn, rent, and divided from our Communion: A very ſad Effect whereof appears in* Scotland; *I pray* God *grant, that it may not be as a Shower of Rain, to cauſe their Seeds of Rebellion to ſpring or grow up here in* England, *&c.* Now might a great deal fairly be inferr'd from theſe Particulars, thus Solemnly and Circumſtantially deliver'd; but I chuſe rather to leave every Body to the Freedom of his own Thoughts: eſpecially ſince they ſpeak plain and home enough, at leaſt to the Purpoſe I produc'd them, without Comment or Expoſition. And truly, when I call to mind the Diſcouragement theſe *Sheets* met with, and that the Buſineſs of the Black Box was brought into Play upon the very Inſtant of their firſt appearing abroad, I cannot (for all this *Letter-Man*'s Notions) but be ſtrongly of Conceit, that it was from *Them* chiefly, that thoſe neceſ-

ſary Inquiſitions into ſo flagitious and dangerous a Forgery, took their main Riſe. But the Perſons intereſted in the Midwifing of them into the World, are Competent Judges of the Value of this Conjecture.

LET. *And, had there been any thing of that Conſequence committed to, and entruſted with Him, he is both a Perſon of that Honour and Courage, as to have dar'd to have Own'd and Juſtify'd it; and a Gentleman of that Diſcretion and Wiſdom, that he would e're this have acquainted the* Parliament *with it; to whom both the Cognizance and Deciſion of a Matter of ſo Grand Importance, do properly belong.*

ANS. Sir *Gilbert* lives not amongſt ſo very bad Neighbours, as to ſtand in need of any ſuch Py-bald Complement; beſide that, he has too ſlender an Opinion of Flaſhy Pratings, and Grammatical Pedantries, not to look upon all this *Smut* from ſuch a *Fiſt*, to be a moſt Scandalous Indignity: Eſpecially knowing ſo well as he

he does, that the *Good Word* of *Varlets* is rarely to be purchas'd at a Cheaper Rate, than the Price of a Man's Conſcience and Integrity. And then, one would have thought this Supercilious *Sorcerer* might have been pleas'd to look down from Himſelf, as from the *Devil*'s Monument, and vouchſafe us poor Mortals, under his Feet, a few Shreds of Reaſons, why it muſt be accounted a Crime to believe His *Majeſty* in this Caſe; as alſo, why *Parliaments* are bound to receive Their Work only of his Worſhip's Carving. But we ſhall take due Notice of Theſe, and other Threds of the ſame *Woof*, elſewhere.

LET. *But, in truth, the whole Referring to the* Black Box, *is a meer* Romance, *purpoſely invented to Sham and Ridicule the Marriage, which indeed hath no Relation to it: For they who judg'd it Conducible to their preſent Intereſt, to have the* D. *of* M's *Title to the Crown not only Diſcredited, but Expos'd, thought it neceſſary, inſtead of na-*

kedly enquiring whether he be the King's Legitimate, *or only* Natural *Son, to bring upon the Stage a Circumstance no way annexed with it: Supposing that* This *being found a Fable, the* Marriage *it self of the* K. *with the said* D's Mother *would have undergone the same Censure. But, by what I do perceive, they were mistaken in their Measures; seeing most Men know how to Separate what they endeavour'd so Artificially to have Interwoven: And all that I can apprehend they are like to get by it, is, the Raising a* Devil *they will not easily Lay.*

ANS. This Wretche's very Soul is a Juggle, and his Face all over Brass; he could never else have been Guilty of so Impudent and Poysonous a Prevarication, as to Charge the *Government* with perpetrating those Villanies, which it took such worthy Care to Detect and Punish. But *Here's* a more honest, probable *Summary* of that whole Affair.

A Pack of Beggarly Miscreants, projecting to Enrich themselves upon the

the Spoyl of Three Kingdoms, took Advantage of the *Preſumptive Heir*'s being reputed *Popiſhly* inclin'd, to try to render Doubtful, or Invert the Legal Deſcent of the Crown; that ſo, by involving us in Blood, they might accompliſh a Deſign, which Experience had taught them, was no other way to be Effected. By dark Hints therefore they craftily inſinuated, as if the *King* had Legitimate Iſſue; not intending yet, that the Flam ſhould immediately become Publick; but to keep it in Reſerve, and have it in Readineſs, when the Seaſon might be capable of it: But it ſpred beyond Expectation, and ſoon brought them under a Neceſſity of diſcloſing the Bottom of the Secret to ſome of their over-curious Proſelites. Thus came on the Pretenſe of a *Marriage*, a Writing in a **Black Box**; and all its Appurtenances: And it was taken down ſo readily, by ſuch as were prepar'd to entertain what they earneſtly deſir'd to be true; that paſſing from an Effect of meer Spight,

to a Subject of loose Chat, it at length reach't the *Court*, and *Authority* inquir'd into, and fully Discover'd the *Imposture*; to the Universal Satisfaction of all Honest Men, and Confusion of such as had suffer'd themselves so easily to be Impos'd upon. The *Principals* in the mean time growing desperate, upon this Mortal Blow to their Cause and Credit, their *Familiar* prompted to represent the Business to the Multitude, as a *Popish Contrivance* to disparage a *Just Claim*. Now, This they fore-saw, was to give themselves the Lye, in the Face of the *Sun*; but yet, finding that no other *Pin* would drive, they set upon, and atchiev'd the Exploit in the Manner, and under the Notion here before you.

Thus have you before-hand, what I intend to advance in the Place of that which I attempt to pluck down: And indeed, now it is, that I have laid the Ax to the Root; for all the rest of the *Libel* is meerly *Glaze* and *Verniſh* artificially drawn, to make

This

This impious *Abuſe* the more colourable. But the very Weather it ſelf, has already waſh'd off part of the *Fucus*; and, having done with the *Preface*, I proceed to take to Task the Reſidue.

SECT. III.

LET. FOR, *my* Lord, *it is, in the* Firſt *place, apparent, that the Starting of this Buſineſs, is to be wholly aſcrib'd to the* Duke *of* York, *and thoſe under whoſe Conduct he Regulates Himſelf, and his Concerns. Had any others been the firſt Movers in it, you may be ſure they would never have ventur'd it before the* Councel, *as it is now influenc'd and moulded; but they would have waited till the Sitting of the* Parliament, *where they might expect nothing but Impartiality, and Juſtice.*

ANS.

ANS. It is but Natural, that such Arguments as issue from a prejudic'd, and disturb'd Brain, should be of the same Cloudy Guise and Complexion: So that, it ought not to seem strange, that, throughout the whole Course of this *Pamphletier*'s Sophistical Illusions, there is a direct Opposition to the common Standard of Reasoning and Thinking; and a continued Thred of the grossest Immoralities and Extravagancies, that can be imagin'd. As, to instance in this *Section*, I dare almost defy Mankind, to produce any one thing less consistent with the Rules of Profit, or the obvious Dictates of a Vulgar and Ordinary Prudence, nay, that comes nearer to down-right Phrensie and Infatuation, than for a Body not only without Cause, but in the Face of most powerful Motives to the contrary, to pluck an old House upon his Head, (as they say) by being himself the Instrument of raising a Suspicion upon the Validity of his own *Title*, when no Mortal

tal elſe ſo much as queſtions it: Or, on the other ſide, more Conſonant to the Principles of Duty, Right, and Honeſty, than for Good and Well-meaning Subjects, when there is no *Parliament* in being, to apply themſelves to the *Councel*, in all Caſes that the Law has deſtin'd to ſuch a Cognizance; and for that Wiſe Body, again, preparatively to enquire into, or abſolutely to determine upon what ſhall in due manner be ſo preſented: And, in a Matter of this vaſt Importance more eſpecially, where the leaſt falſe Step on the one Part, or the other, might amount to an Equivalency with High-Treaſon.

But now, the better to avoid the Force of ſuch as theſe, and a little to ſhade the Tranſparent Lunacies of his own Aſſumptions, he is fain to betake himſelf to the ſame *Front* that he lately own'd in his Palpable Falſifications, as well in reſpect of *Addreſſing*, as *Stating* the *Main* of the preſent Controverſie; giving us thereby ſufficiently to underſtand, that not a-

ny

ny Obligations, how Civil or Sacred ſo ever, will at all be regarded by ſuch a *Libertine*, when they ſhall happen to thwart the undue Promotion of his Temporal Ends: And, in truth, that Oaths, Vows, all things binding or commendable, and all the Gifts and Endowments of Art, Nature, and Religion, ſhould become Proſtitutely Subſervient to Faction and Intereſt, is no more than an inevitable Reſult from ſo Corrupted, or rather Dethron'd a Conſcience. So that, I am the leſs ſurpriz'd to find him, upon this Hard Pinch, ſtriving with all his might, to reflect Scandal and Obloquy upon the *Two* Auguſt Aſſemblies of the Nation; and to repreſent the *one* as utterly devoyd of Honeſty and Juſtice, and the *other* as moſt pronely diſpos'd at every end and turn freakiſhly to gad after the *Hootings* of ſuch Maggot-pated, and Miſchievous Incendaries as himſelf, rather than deliberately to attend the Motions and Informations of ſober and conſiderate Heads: which is an

Inſinua-

Insinuation so Poysonous and Abominable, that it falls not within the Compass of my slender Stock of *Rhetorick*, effectually to decipher it. For, as to the *Councel*, I need say no more of them, than that their Actions praise them in the Gates; nor indeed, is Faith, Honour, Discretion, true Zeal, and inviolable Affection to *Prince* and *Country*, any where more exemplarily Resplendent, than in the Whole, and every Particular *Member* of those *Illustrious Patriots?* Of *Parliaments*, though in themselves they are the most Wholesom, and best-Qualify'd *Constitution* in the known World; yet, some, I must confess, have deserv'd as bad as he speaks of; which is not much to be wonder'd at, if we do but recollect, that the Corruption of the Best Things, is generally the Worst; and that nothing under the *Sun* is compleatly Perfect, or exempt from Injuries and Violations: But then, on the contrary, *others* (and those infinitely the most in number too) by Administring a Comfortable

fortable Supply of *Juyce* to the *Root* of the Tree, have infus'd new Strength and Vigour into the whole *Body* of it, ſecur'd the Live and Fruitful *Branches*, by Lopping off with an Axe, the tainted and rotten ones; by ſevere and politick Proviſions, prevented *Harpies* and *Scritch-Owls*, *Clements*, *Ravillacs*, *Muncer*'s, and *John*'s *à Leyden*, from Neſting in the *Boughs*; and by juſt and ſtrict Proceedings againſt *Romiſh Locuſts*, and *Fanatick Vermine*, preſerv'd the *Leaves* from Ruin and Conſumption: By excluding *Perſonal Animoſities*, *Flateries* to the People, by being ſtill the ſharper there, where they have taken up an Odium, *Fear* leaſt by ſparing ſuch and ſuch Blood, *They* might be incens'd, *Apprehenſions* upon the Score of a former Vehemence, that there can be no Safety while an Adverſary remains Alive; and all ſuch like *Corruptives* of *Judgment*, have caus'd *Juſtice* to flow like a Stream, and Diſpens'd it with an Equal and Impartial Hand, that all *Delinquents* might hear and dread,

dread, and do no more Preſumptuouſly: And by theſe Temperate and Equitable Methods of acting, have render'd Themſelves the Hope of the *Good*, and Terror of the *Wicked*, the Sanctuary of *Friends*, and Scourge of *Enemies*; rais'd a Fence againſt Forreign Frauds, and Domeſtick Jars; heal'd up Breaches, bury'd Rancour and Diviſion, diſcover'd the *Myſtery of Iniquity*, ſolemnly Expos'd the Whore's Face voy'd of Paint, and Hypocriſie, ſtrip't off its demure Look, and affected Paleneſs; critically diſtinguiſh'd betwixt Piety and Pretenſe, Truth and Error, Zeal and Frenzy, Right and Wrong, Misfortune and Maliciouſneſs, Infirmity and Deſign; given Religion ſo much the Upper-Hand of Intereſt and Impoſture, that it was able to recover its Priſtine Luſtre and Veneration; made Conſcience to ceaſe from being accounted a Scorn, Charity Childiſhneſs, and Moderation Malignancy; reſcu'd Innocence out the Paws of Oppreſſion and Slander, and kept it from

from falling a Sacrifice to the Vindictive, the Desperate, or the Prophane; preserv'd Obstinate Loyalty from being deem'd a Crime, or a Reproach, caus'd it to be Reverenc'd for its Rags, and Scars; and, in despight of Malice and Clamour, to find Encouragement and Reward: And, in a word, disabled Faction and Bitterness from working any thing to the Offence or Prejudice of the Asserters of the Government, as Establish'd by Law. And that such again, or rather one Endow'd with a Double Portion of Spirit and Virtue above any of the Former, by a Providential Influence upon the Heart of our Gracious Sovereign, may, in a Seasonable and Auspicious Minute, be sent to Relieve us in these our Great Extremities, is not less Mine, than the Cordial Wish, and Prayer of every truly Loyal, and Peaceable Subject.

SECT.

SECT. IV.

LET. IN *the* Second Place; *The very Intimation that any beſides the* D. *of* Y. *doth ſo much as pretend a Title to the Crown, will operate with many to a Belief, that it is not without Reaſon that he doth ſo. For the only way to undeceive Men in a Mattar of vain and groundleſs Credulity, is to neglect and deſpiſe them; whereas all Endeavours to convince them, do but contribute to the Strengthening them in their Faith.*

ANS. *Firſt*; I do readily grant, that had it not been well fore-ſeen how agreeable ſuch a *Forgery* were likely to be to the Humours and Apprehenſions of a great many, the World had to this day been to ſeek both for this *Letter* it ſelf, and the *Occaſion* of

it. But This is an Improvement of a Slip that he was not aware of: and therefore, come we to what he chiefly drives at, and see how he can away with this his New-fashion'd sort of *Reasoning*, when serv'd upon himself. Set the Case then that a Person notoriously known to be destitute of fair Pretensions, should lay open Claim to the *Libellers* Estate; (which, in very deed, consists only of a Thousand or Two of Acres in *Buss-Island*) Would he hold to his Rule, and, for fear of giving his Tenants ground to believe the other's the better Title, sit down quietly under an Abuse, that at one and the same time wounds his Ancestors, Himself, and forebodes Ruine or Embarassment to his Family and Dependents; or rather, slighting all such Whimsyes, by a due Course of Law expose and punish so presumptuous an Impostor? The *Question* answers it self; and yet This is the plain Scope of his Argument: So that, it falls short of the Moral Precept, **Do as you would have**; and yet the utmost

moſt limit of That, is but the Beginning of Chriſtianity. But it is no new Thing, for *Phariſees* of ſuch a Cut to bind heavy Burthens upon Others, which Themſelves will not endure to touch with one of their Fingers.

I grant him, *Secondly*, That This is a Matter of Credulity ſo abſolutely vain and groundleſs, as hath non-plus'd all his Art and Invention to produce ſo much as one ſingle Fig-Tree-Leaf for a Covering to its Nakedneſs. But then I muſt mind him, that as nothing of this Quality that affects a common Behoof, can in its own Nature be Contemptible; ſo This particularly, in the Genuine Conſequences of it, bears a Face of Danger, that imports no leſs than the future Peace and Safety of Three Kingdoms: And thus much even by his own Confeſſion too. But, Alas! To behold the whole Nation a ſecond time in a Flame, and brought to the Extremities of Fire and Sword; whole droves of Cobblers, Dray-Men, Oſtlers upon Free-

Quarter with us, till ſome of our Wives and Daughters are forc'd to Proſtitute themſelves for Bread; our Councels affronted with Armed Troops, Citizens knock't on the Head at their own Doors, like Dogs, for not ſo much as Barking, Apprentices diſcharg'd of their Indentures by an Arbitrary Power, Houſes rifled, Account-Books examin'd, Servants corrupted to Betray their Maſters; our Perſons clap't under Hatches, tranſported or thrown into naſty Dungeons, or (in Mercy perhaps) our Throats cut by the Name of *Popiſh* Dogs and *Cavaliers*, only for refuſing to Renounce *God*, and our Sovereign; St. *Paul*'s and *Greſham*-Colledge turn'd into Garriſons, Orders for the Demoliſhing of our Gates and Chains, and nothing leſs than Military Execution threatned, unleſs we Redeem our ſelves with a Hundred Thouſand Pounds a Month Contribution toward the perpetuating of our Slavery; our Fathers, or ſome of our neareſt Relations, Citizens, Nobility, Gentry, the

King

King Himself, and His best Friends, under the Hand of the Common Executioner; our Churches, Erected for the true Worship of *God*, abused, and turn'd into Stables, Pulpits into Juggling-Boxes to Hocus our Wives and Daughters out of their Bodkins and Thimbles, and nothing to be heard there but Heresie and Sedition, to the Dishonour of *Christ*, and Scandal of Religion; the Ministers of *God*'s Holy Word cast out of their Livings by Hundreds, their Children expos'd to the wide World to beg their Bread, and not a Friend that dare open his Mouth for them; our Women running with their Hair about their Ears, one half to the Works like *Pioniers*, the other dancing Attendance at a Mercileſs Committee, to put in Bail perhaps for some Malignant Friend or Husband; Men cover'd with Blood, lost Limbs, mangled Bodies, and with Horror of Conscience over and above; and, in *brief*, our Altars rob'd, our Churches demolish'd, and only the Walls left standing, would question-

less be a most Voluptuous Spectacle to the Blood-shotten-Eyes of a Monster, so entirely lost to all Sense and Impressions of Humanity; and whose only Business it seems to be, to endeavour to lull asleep, and amuse us, while Matters ripen for such an Issue. But *God* in his Mercy (I trust) will disappoint him!

So that, he must grant me, in the *Third Place*, That to despise them, is neither the *only*, nor the *safest Way* to undeceive the Multitude, under such Circumstances. Nay, in truth, if we well consider it, there can hardly be fansy'd a more injurious Affront, than is the apparent Drift of so vile an Intimation: For, What does it less than bespeak the People of *England* so wayward and perverse, as to be incapable of a Conviction by any other means than such as necessarily fixes all the Reasonable World besides, in a Belief; so Brutish and Irreverent, as to trample upon the Sword of the Magistrate, Dictates of Authority, all Things that bear a

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Countenance of Sacredneſs or Solemnity in Government, in purſuit of every wand'ring ſpiteful Rumor, that Hell and its Agents ſhall ſet a foot; and pride themſelves in nothing more than outragious Inſolences againſt Principalities and Powers; and, in a word, indulge that Vulgar, but Venomous *Saying*, *The* Spaniſh *King commands Hearts*, *the* French, *Men*, *and the* Engliſh, *Devils*. No, no! Let all ſuch Deſigning Wretches know to their Sorrow, that we have Spirits naturally Juſt and Generous, like Fire aſpiring (as a *Pyramid*) from Low to High, and never reſting till Contracted into an Unity at Top: That we want no freſh Experiments to convince us, that the Leaven of the *Phariſees* is Hypocriſie; that Religion flouriſhes when grafted upon the Olive-Branch, not upon the Sturdy Oak, or a Bar of Iron; that true Zeal conſiſts not in an inſulſe Fervency againſt whatever (ſenſible or inſenſible) ſhall chance to thwart a-vain, ſlovenly, or fantaſtical Capriche, and

Preference of breaking a *Crucifix* in a Church-Window to a Keeping of the *Fifth Commandment*; but exerts it self in Good Works, in an Universal Charity, in Peaceableness, Loyalty, Meekness, and an Humble Submission to, and Relyance upon the Wisdom and Justice of the Almighty; that a *King* is *God*'s Vice-gerent upon Earth, and not Deposable upon Account of any Error, or Human Frailty whatsoever, it being most Egregrious Partiality to pronounce the same Extravagances in Him a Forfeiture of His Scepter, that our selves are frequently guilty of without the Mulct of a single *Sol*; that Rebellion is a bewitching Sin, that still breeds Us Woe, let the Fortune of the Day fall which way it will, since it is at the Expence of Our Blood and Treasure, that both the War and the Tryumph are supported; beside that, nothing is more usual than for the Victor, as well out of Pride as Politick Expedience, to make his Little-Finger more unsupportable to us,

than

than were his Predeceſſor's Loins; that tho we may wiſh for a Good *Prince*, it is our Duty nevertheleſs to Obey a Wicked *One*, to Correct our own Lives, not attempt to Take away His, nor repine at Providence for ſending Him, any more than for ſending Diſeaſes, Plagues, Catarrhs, Caterpillars, Blightings, Blaſtings, and the like, Evil *Kings* being only as Blightings and Blaſtings of a People that *God* is pleas'd to puniſh; that Fear and Jealouſie are the Baſeſt of all the Paſſions, as making one Wretched beforehand out of a Dread of Miſeries to come, and have This in common with *Satan* himſelf, that they are only able to do Hurt; that Luxury and Wantonneſs are the Roots of all Miſchief, Tools ready whetted for Malice, Ambition, and Diſcontent, to cut out their Villanous Projects withal; and that Treachery and Ingratitude are juſtly deteſted not by Man only, but by the Divinity it ſelf, never terminate but in Infamy and Reproach, and are capable of turning well-order'd

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Communities into Nests of *Wolves* and *Tygers*, *Thieves* and *Robbers*: And that it is not out of Fear, Convenience, or any other sinister Motive, that we persevere to be Modest, Dutyful, True, Temporate, Respectful, and Submissive; but out of an Obstinate and Indelible Love to those respective Virtues themselves.

LET. *what will the People say? But that if the* D. *of* M. *were not* Legitimate-Heir, *would the* Papists, *by whose Inspirations the* D. *of* Y. *governs himself, so effectually bestir themselves, as to desire that an Affair of so vast Importance, and wherein the whole Kingdom is concern'd, should be judg'd of by Twenty or Thirty Persons, who have neither Legislative nor Judicial Power?*

ANS. Here are but as many Scandals as Lines in this Period: For all in a Breath it plainly implyes the *People* to be inordinately greedy of stretching their crazy Sight, upon all occasions, to Things beyond their Sphere, and distrustful of the Powers that

that Providence has placed over them; the *King*, the Passive Instrument of bad Men's Wills, and accountable to His Subjects even in the most Vital Parts of Sovereignty; the *Duke of York*, a Designer upon his Brother's Life, nay, upon his Own too, by being actuated by *Popish* Advices; and the *Privy-Council* incompetent of, and prone to abuse their Authority, unless aw'd into Reason by the Basest of Considerations. Now, most of these Particulars again occurring, and being more fully observ'd upon elsewhere, I shall in this place only rejoyn, *First*, That the People are not at all fond of a fresh Infection with the same Leperous Itch of Curiosity, that has so often created them much Smart, but never yet brought them any Advantage; and are also better taught, than to give less heed to the Deliberate Asseverations and Assurances of a Just Monarch, especially in a Point that no other Mortal can pretend to so perfect a Knowledge of, than to the putid Distillations of Canker'd and

Poysonous

Poysonous Skulls: *Secondly*, Let the *Sun* blush to behold so Hellish an Indignity and Ingratitude against a *Prince*, than whom never yet has Political Prudence found a greater Master, or more indulgent Patron, and to the Justice of whose Government we are indebted beyond Expression; forasmuch as he hath violently taken none of our Oxen from the Plow, Herds from the Stall, Beds from under the Widdow and Orphan, nor Levy'd Assessments with a strong Hand, and Troops of Horse; but (contrariwise) hath Retriev'd us out of as Miserable a Thraldom and Apostacy, as the Divine Vengeance ever inflicted upon a Rebellious Wantonness, and, while all our Neighbours round about us are groaning under the Sword, Famine, Pestilence, *&c.* continues to feed us with the Lushious Fruits of Peace and Plenty, even to Satiety and Excess: And then, Does it not naturally consist with his Oath of bearing True Faith and Allegiance to *Charles* the Second, to Revive a Tenet

net that brought *Charles* the First to the Scaffold; a Tenet, that so many Learned and Worthy Champions have successfully taken up the Gantlet against; and that flyes directly in the Face of Reason, and the current Practice of all well-regulated States and Kingdoms? *Thirdly*, A slender Acquaintance with the Temper of his *Royal Highnesses* Mind, the Quality of his Retinue for the Generality; but principally of those to whom he lends the readiest Ear, would compleat a solid Confutation of this Frontless Calumny; Beside that, *His* Honour is not capable of a Stain from such *Ink*, as, by an Invective, might (with all sober Men) in a great Measure, blanch the Credit of a common Prostitute: And, *Lastly*, The *Councel* (please him to take Notice) are able to see what they have to do, without the Assistance of *His* Spectacles; and as they pretend not *to*, so the *Section* following will make out, that in this Case there was no need either *of* Legislative or Judicial Power. Wherefore,

I shall

I shall conclude This with noting, That not only Dr. *Tongue*, in the Passages above-cited, but the *King*'s Witnesses (in no respect more Harmonious than in this) have Unanimously voyc'd it to be a main Branch of the Damnable *Popish Plot*, to Defame and Mis-represent the Person and Proceedings of the Publick Magistrate: And indeed, so many Blemishes and apparent Marks of the *Beast*, does this *Pamphletier* carry about him, that he is as easie to be known from Ten Thousand, as is the *Protestant* Botcher, Cobler, Joyner, Intelligencer, or any other Prick-ear'd Brother of the *Tribe*; nay, as Honest *Jack* himself, when clad in the *Doublet* of *Cleveland*'s Cutting out; and, if I mistake not, he is almost as diligent a Frequenter of the *Protestant Conventicle* too, I should have said *Coffee-House*; being undoubtedly a *Jesuite* under a *Puritan*-Vizard, so the more mischievous, and to be bewar'd of.

SECT.

SECT. V.

LET. *AND in the* Third place; *Should they compaſs all that they can propoſe to themſelves from the* Board; *yet it would no way advantage the* D. *of* Y. *nor give the leaſt Prejudice to the* D. *of* M. *providing his Claim be Juſt, and can be evidenc'd to be ſo before the Great Repreſentative of the Nation.*

ANS. The *Engliſh* of This is, That the *Councel* is not a *Court of Juſtice* or *Record*, the *Parliament* the *Supreme*; and that the *D.* of *Y.* has no Title, provided the *D.* of *M*'s can be prov'd to be Juſt. A ſpecial piece of News, believe me! Amounting to full as much as if he had ſaid, *when the Sky falls, ye may expect to catch Larks, good People!* And, Is ſuch the Upſhot, now, of all this mighty Pother? Muſt the very Quinteſſence of Falſhood and De-

Detraction abound, and all Things precious in the Eyes of honest Men be trod under Foot, Authority affronted, the People Hag-ridden, nay, *Logick* it self put to do Penance, for the sake of a meer Proviso, or Possibility? Who could have imagin'd, that ever he would have faln so vastly short of making out the Point he thus vehemently stickles for to be barely Probable, as to be himself the First to confess it a pure Fiction, a perfect Nullity? But indeed, it is impossible long to keep a Disguise: and there is nothing more usual, than for such as thrust themselves at a venture into a Bad Cause, to miscarry and spoyl all, either by Spinning too fine, or often breaking the Thred. And then, What can parallel the Confidence of his interpreting That to be only an Act of particular Pick or Pleasure, which carries the Stamp of so awful a Presence, and manifestly tends to secure Peace and Settlement to Three Kingdoms? But There (Alas!) it is, that the Shooe pinches him: For sure I

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am, that the *Two* Glorious Subjects of this Diſpute, who have ſo frequently and generouſly expos'd their Perſons for their Countries Good, can never be brought to account any thing a Prejudice or Advantage to their own Private, that ſhall but in the leaſt promote or obſtruct ſuch Publick and Happy Ends.

LET. *For, beyond all peradventure, theſe Things, howſoever Reſolv'd upon and Determin'd at the* Councel, *will be call'd over again by the* Parliament: *Nor will the Opinion of the* Table *ballance that Great and Wiſe* Body *to Judge otherwiſe than as their Conſciences, upon a Hearing of the whole Matter, ſhall oblige them.*

ANS. O the intolerable Vanity and Impudence of this Paultry *Scribler*, to conceit (nay, peremptorily aſſert) that ſo Grave and Prudent a Senate, could either be guilty of a *Softneſs* equal to that of Foſtering up the Spurious Brat of his own Noddle; or of ſo much *Injuſtice*, as to approve of theſe his Audacious Menaces and In-

ſolencies againſt Men of untainted Honour and Integrity? Eſpecially, when it is ſo generally known, that a Wiſdom as clear and compleat as Heaven ever vouchſaf'd to ſinful Man; a Power abſolute and comprehenſive to a Moral Poſſibilty; a Reſolution firm, frank, and ſpritely to a Thought; and a Will as free, ſound, and juſt, as falls within the Capacity of Human Corruptions, are the Eſſential Qualifications of a right-Conſtituted *Engliſh Parliament*. And, Where, now, are thoſe Letters, Papers, and Perſons, that he Here all along bears us ſo often in hand with, and that are the very Ground-work of This his *Paper-Building*, rais'd with untemper'd Mortar? For ſuch a *Parliament* as I'm confident, he could make no handſome Exception to, is Come, and Gone; and not any one Syllable or Circumſtance There to be heard of, correſponding with the Tenour of all theſe Prophetical Bravadoes. Were there any thing of Truth, as there is evident Falſity, in his former Pretences,

ces, either that Considerable Matters relating to this Affair, were reserv'd for such a Hearing, or that the *Papists* bestir'd themselves to have it brought before the *Council*, in order to a Partial Determination; it is not to be imagin'd, that this *Reforming Brother* of the Cut of *Forty-Nine*, would have less effectually labour'd in the Service of his Cause and Credit, and to have it call'd over again by that Great Assembly: Nay, and produc'd such his pretended Proofs before *That* too, or none at all; not only because he could never reasonably hope for any other like fair Opportunity; but forasmuch also, as he stood and look't on, while the *House of Commons* were stabbing the Protest to the very Heart, by sundry Clauses and Provisoes in Their *Bill of Exclusion*; and by That particularly and expressly, which adjudges the Crown to descend upon the *Next Protestant Heir*. By which single Passage, they have plainly imply'd their Sense of this Business to be exactly

the same with That of the *Councel*, and consequently (to the unspeakable Content of Good Men) superseded all further Questions and Contrastations concerning it. If he gain-sayes This; let me ask him, How he can make it consist with the Characteristical Note of **Wise Body**, that he fixes upon Them, in all their Debates and Consultations, to prevent a Re-introduction of *Popery*, not to be able to hit upon any nearer or other *Expedient*, than the Extravagant One of depriving a Man of a Right, that, in such a Case, he could not pretend to; than That of destroying the *Father*'s (the *D.* of *Y*'s) Title to the Crown, only to Entaile it upon his *Children*, could they but have found the least Ground to believe, that the *King* has *Legitimate*, as well as *Protestant* Issue? What Confusion of Face (if there be but one Spark of Shame left in him) must he needs lye under, upon so open and undenyable a Detection of his Forgeries? A Detection so palpable, as divests him of all Co-

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lour of Excuſe; other than that either his *Proteſtant Zeal* (with a Pox!) was ſunk into his Breeches, when it ſhould have been of uſe to him, or (which is more probable) that he adheres to his Original Purpoſe of having the Point decided not by Dint of Argument, but the Length and Sharpneſs of the Sword. But *God* has already been pleas'd more than once to Defeat, and will in Mercy (I hope) again and again Diſappoint all ſuch Blood-thirſty Miſcreants!

LET. *And of what little Significancy the* Reſolves *of the* Councel, *though ſtamped and enforced with the* Authority *of a* King, *are to the Impoſing a* Supreme Ruler *upon the Nation, when a* Legal Claim *lyes in Oppoſition, we are ſufficiently inſtructed by the Inſtance of* Jane Gray, *though a Lady of thoſe Endowments, which few of either Sex ever parallel'd, and Recommended at that time to the Nation, by ſundry Motives and Inducements.*

ANS. How Slippery and Dangerous muſt the Way of *Sin* needs be,

when even this *Frosted* Brute himself cannot make so much as one sure Step in't! It were an endless Work, to recount all his *Tripps*; nay, and an unnecessary One too, they are so obvious: As *here* particularly, he blushes not to couple together Things that are directly Opposite, and bear no other Relation or Affinity, than what the Malice of the Comparer gives them. For, What Natural Resemblance (in the Name of Goodness!) can there be betwixt an Act of a Raw, Minour, and Crazy *Prince*, and a Handful of *Courtiers*, aw'd and influenc'd by a Designing *Minion*, that tended to cut off a True Title, and create and advance a new False One; and That of a *Masculine*, Mature, and Experienc'd *Monarch*, in a full and free *Councel*, directed (as the *Libeller*'s own Soul knows) to a quite contrary End? The Naked Truth of that whole Proceeding being neither more, nor other than This; that as His *Majesty*, out of His abundant Care for the Weal of His People, upon an Information

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to Him in *Councel*, touching the Conſpiracies of the *Papiſts*, had before been graciouſly pleaſed to take the Diſcovery into Conſideration, and ripen and prepare it for the Cognizance of His *Parliament*; ſo did He again, in the ſame Place, and upon the ſame Score too, condeſcend to enter upon the Examination of a *Second* like Information (Credible and Inobnoxious) of another Deſign, that, in the Genuine Conſequences of it, in Villany and Helliſhneſs, came little ſhort of the Former: and with ſuch unwearyed Diligence, and great Prudence did he purſue the wand'ring Vapour, (tho known by Himſelf before-hand to be no better) that He quickly reach'd to the Center of it; but without any fuller Certainty or Satisfaction, than what poſitive Denyals, or vain Conjectures were able to furniſh: Wherefore, to the end that He might effectually Lay this Wicked Spirit, Compoſe the Minds of His Subjects, and Prevent the Effuſion of Innocent Blood, He renewed, and

caus'd to be recorded a former Declaration, That He never was Marry'd to any other Woman, than His preſent Wife Queen *Catharine*. And, Will not This, now, by any Thing that wears but the Shape of a Man, be pronounced an Act entirely devoyd of Byaſs or Intereſt, highly worthy of a moſt Equitable, Prudent, Generous, and Indulgent *Prince*, and that will tranſmit His Memory Sacred and Venerable to future Generations? Only this Son of Perdition (who ſucks Poyſon out of thoſe *Simples*, from whence others extract Hony) has the Face to compare it to, and repreſent it as an Attempt to Impoſe a *Supreme Ruler* upon the Nation, in prejudice of a *Legal Claim*. But ſuch monſtrous Falſifications are purely Natural to the vile Ends he had in Propoſition from the Beginning, and that are not to be ſerved upon fairer Terms: And this Conſideration may take off from the Surprize, that it might otherwiſe have been to the Honeſt *Reader*, to find him

him bitterly inveighing against, and charging the *Councel* (as above) with ſtretching their Tedder, in the Diſcuſſion of a Rumour that requir'd the Adminiſtration of an *Oath* indeed, but not the Draught of a ſingle *Mittimus*; much leſs the Aſſiſtance of either *Legiſlative*, or *Judicial Power*.

In the Story of the Incomparable, but Unfortunate *Jane Gray*, (render'd ſuch too, by other's Faults rather than her own) we may behold an Ambitious, Crafty, and Diſhoneſt old *Earl*, (*Northumberland*) in outward Profeſſion the moſt Zealous of *Proteſtants*, one while with Arguments drawn from Religion, political Expedience, the Love and Humour of the People, and all other plauſible Bottoms that could be thought of, cajoling and trepanning Pious and Single-hearted King *Edward the Sixth*, into the Signing of an Inſtrument to Exalt to the Throne, after his Demize, that good Young Thing, who ſtood indiſpenſibly oblig'd to manage the Reins of *Rule* in ſuch ſort only, as ſhould ſuit with

with this *Fox*'s own Liking and Directions, in Oppoſition to the rightful Pretenſions of his *Popiſh* Siſter *Mary*; and (if our *Hiſtorians* ſay true) ſending him into a better World by *Poyſon*, as ſoon as he had gain'd his Will of him: By and by, baſely abandoning all thoſe e're while (in ſhew at leaſt) beloved Intereſts, (betray'd by himſelf to the Block) maugre all the Tyes and Impulſes of Honour, and Nature, to the contrary; and, in hopes of playing a more Advantagious Game, or (however) of ſaving his own Stake, tacking about to the Adverſe, but then more Succeſsful *Party*: And, in concluſion, meeting There (beyond Expectation) with a Reward due to ſo perfidious a Traytor, declaring himſelf (upon the Scaffold) to have been all along a *Papiſt* in Maſquerade, to Dye ſuch, and to have hypocritically endu'd the Diſguiſe of a *Proteſtant* meerly upon the ſcore of Faſhion & Convenience; and venting more Spite againſt the Bleſſed and Glorious *Reformation*, at the time

time of his Death, than ever (Living) he had expreſs Kindneſs'd for it, while it made for his Turn ſo to do.

This Inſtance now may ſerve for a *Warning* to *Some*, (in Contemplation of the diſmal Conſequences, inſeparable from Sacrilegious Attempts, to violate the Sacred Rights of *Crowns*) to beware how they liſten to any Temptations (though never ſo powerful or inſinuating) that ſhall but in the leaſt put forward to any ſuch lewd and perillous Undertakings; ſince both the Experience of former Ages, and of every Day too, may ſatisfy, that nothing under the *Sun* is ſo Treacherous and Corrupt, as the Heart of Man; and if a publick Guiſe of Holyneſs may in moſt Caſes be juſtly held ſuſpected, How much more ſtrongly does the Obligation preſs to take heed of the Glavering Flatteries and Inſpirations of ſuch Wily *Machiavilians*, as, in the Courſe of their Lives, are notoriouſly known to have finiſh'd all the Sins of the Compaſs, and veer'd their Conſciences (like a *Weather-Cock*)

Cock) back and forward, this, that, t'other, and every way, according to the various Aſpects of Profit or Preferment in the State? And it may be a Word of Advice alſo to a Great *Many*, to ſtrive no longer to do Evil, that Good may come of it; foraſmuch as *Religion* has never yet proſper'd by undue Practices to advance it, and, as the Current of *Juſtice*, (though for a time, it may be interrupted, yet) at the long run, ſtill prevails, and evermore beats down before it the Authors of any ſuch Obſtruction.

SECT. VI.

LET. IN *the* Fourth Place, *The Method of managing this Affair, gives us more ſurprize than all the reſt; & ſeems wholly Calculated to intricate Matters, rather than clear them. For Your* Lordſhip, *and all others who are Maſters of that*

that Senſe which you poſſeſs, would be ready to conceive, that the main, if not the only, thing enquir'd into, ſhould be, Whether the *King* was really Marryed unto *Madam Walters*; *and,* Whether the *D.* of *M.* was born in Lawful Wedlock? *But inſtead of this, all the Mighty Inquiſition hath been,* Whether this or that Perſon heard of a Black Box; or of a Contract, referring to the *King*'s Marriage with that *Lady*, committed to the Keeping of Sir *Gilbert Gerard?*

ANS. Having, in the Contumelious Terms you ſee, diſputed the *Councel*'s Power to intermeddle at all in the Affair of the Black Box; with what Succeſs, is left to be judg'd: He comes, now, to deliver his Exceptions againſt the Manner of their doing it; and in the ſelf-ſame Strain of loathſome Inſinuation too. So that, I ſhall paſs over his entitling his pretended *Lordſhip* to ſound Senſe, and Morals enough to ſpeak that Honourable *Body* a Pack of *Jugglers*, as no

no more than a Grain of his Ordinary Allowance; and directly urge, that as the full Scope of the Information it self naturally led to, and terminated in the *Two* Questions that he propounds; so was that which it pointed out the *fairest*, if not the *only Way* then in view; nay, or that has yet occur'd, or is ever likely to present it self, whereby to trace the Bus'ness to such a Period: Nor could there have been any the least Warping from it, that would not have born a Squint of Prejudice or Prevention, and look't as suspiciously as an Endeavour to creep or break in at a Window, when the Door of the House is Open. True it is, that the Premises soon gave back, and at length dwindled into meer Smoak; but this was not thorow any Fault in the Management, for so they will still do, into what specious Mould soever cast: It being no hard Task to form the *Major* and *Minor* Propositions of a Vicious *Syllogism* into Twenty several Shapes, but abso-

abſolutely impoſſible Regularly to infer from them any other than a *Negative* Concluſion. Nay, and tho the Perſons concerned in the Propagation of this Dangerous *Bubble*, had been handled with a Severity proportionable to the Deſerts of ſuch Heinous Criminals; yet would not Reaſon and Juſtice at all have ſuffer'd by the Act, any more than they did in that of Interrogating and Securing the late *Popiſh Conſpirators*, before Argument held upon his *Holyneſs*'s Right to Dethrone and Murther *Kings* at Pleaſure: For *That*, and His *Majeſty*'s never having been Marryed to Mrs. *Walters*, were, and are *Verities* alike undoubted, and out of Proof; there not being wanting in the Latter (any more than in the Former) a Concurrence of Circumſtances, ſtrong enough to convince the verieſt *Sceptick* that ever breath'd.

LET. *Now, What is all this to the Reality of the Marriage? Seeing it might be Tranſacted, as moſt other Marriages*

riages are, In Verbis de Presenti, *and of which no other Proof can be expected, besides the Testimony of such as were personally present.*

ANS. Not a Jot more or less, than what Fair Dealing is to Fraudulent; the Enquiry it self being as Unquestionable, as the Impartial and Authentick Censure that ensu'd upon't, has pronounc'd the Occasion of it voyd of Truth. And indeed, he might with as much Effect have told us, That this pretended Marriage had been Solemniz'd by Bell, Book, and Candle, or any other way whatsoever, as Transacted (*possibly*) *in Verbis de Presenti*; for should Courts of Justice come once to Encroach upon (the peculiar Chattels of the *Poets*) *Possibilities*, and admit bare *May be's* to be Conclusive of *Realities*, all the Extravagant *Fables* in *Ovid's Metamorphosis* might justly rise up, and vye for Credit and Certainty with the most probable *Mathematical Theorems*. But This his notable Strain of *Logick* suits well

well enough with the Motley Guiſe of his Aſſertion (oppoſite to a Fundamental *Maxim* in our Law, that diſables *Baſtards* from Inheriting ſo much as a Foot of *Land*, and to the general Practice and Inſtitutions of all *Chriſtian Churches* in *Europe*) That the ſimple *Taking of one another's Word*, compleats moſt Marriages: Only, he is to be excus'd, if, in the Delivery of it, he had an Eye to an Apology for his own Mother. As for ſuch as (he ſayes) might be *Perſonally preſent*, let me tell him, That *Not to Appear*, and *Not to Be*, have conſtantly been allow'd to be Terms Convertible, and a good *Plea*, at the Bar of *Reaſon*: Nay, and ſuppoſing, (tho not granting) that any ſuch there ſhould be; yet it is clear, they have over-ſtaid their Time, in regard the *Deſign* will keep cold no longer; as having, upon *Two* ſeveral Diſcuſſions, been found to lack Seaſoning, ſo undeſerving and incapable of the Honour of a *Third*.

SECT. VII.

LET. THE *Persons whom they have in this whole Matter, summoned before Them, and Examined, adds to the Suspicion, and encreaseth the Astonishment: For People, who think Congruously to the Subject before them, had conceived, that the main Scrutiny would have been, either in reference to the Assurances given to the* Countess *of* Wemys, *concerning the Legitimacy of the* D. *of* M. *before she disposed her Daughter in Marriage to him; or else, that all the Examinations relating to this Bus'ness, would have been principally confin'd to those who were beyond Sea with the* KING, *when this Marriage is supposed to have happened. But all This seems to have been industriously wav'd; and, in the Room of these, a few Persons have been brought before, and interrogated by*

by the Council, *who could never be presumed to have heard otherwise of it, than by way of Vulgar Tattle.*

ANS. He that, *First*, set Pen to Paper with a direct Intent to abuse and mislead the *Blind*, and pawn his own Cheats upon the *Government*; He that has thus deliberately Blasphem'd *God*, and His *Anointed*, and whom *Charity* it self would blush to pronounce other than the very *Spirit* of Poyson, Impudence, Malice, Imposture, and Detraction; What heed can reasonably be given to the Insinuations of such a Miscreant? To Those, at least, that run Counter to Common Sense, and are meer Popular Amusements; deriving their Original from Villany and Design? Of This Complexion, now, that is to say, as False as Hell, are those which this *Paragraph* Furnishes; being chiefly produc'd to reflect Scandal upon the *King*, and depending intirely upon the worthless Word of their *Author*, for their Support; which not a *Ta-*

vern in *Town* will accept for so much as a Bottle of Wine, and therefore is not to be taken by *Us* in a Case that imports many Millions of Souls. 'Tis as False as *Hell*, (I say again) both that any kind of Assurances were given to the *Countess* of *Wemys*, concerning the *D.* of *M*'s *Legitimacy*; and that upon any such Prospect or Considerations, she disposed her Daughter in Marriage to him: For the *Cross Barr* in his *Graces* Scutcheon, (said to have been inserted by his own Procurement) his *Banner* and *Crest*, and all the *Habiliments* of his *Stall* at *Windsor*, are, and could not but be, Emphatical enough of the Infirmities of his Birth; and it is as undenyable, that the *Dutchess* (tho a Fine Woman, yet) was not a *Match* befitting the Pretenses of a *Prince* of *Wales*; Nor could any thing less than a Love of *Justice*, have induced His *Majesty* to deliver the *Truth*, in this Particular, when urg'd to a contrary Proceeding by Temptations of *Profit* and *Power*. There is not more Since-

rity

rity in his directing the *Scrutiny* to thoſe that were beyond Sea, when this Marriage is ſuppoſed to have happen'd: Becauſe the *Councel* (as it is notoriouſly known) Debated not the Matter in a Clandeſtine Manner, norrefus'd any Man that appear'd an *Hearing*; nay, which is more, upon a ſtrict Enquiry, not one could be found to *affirm*, but enow to *deny*, this pretended Marriage: So that, (with this *Letter-Man*'s good Leave) it ought not to add to the Suſpicion, or increaſe the Aſtoniſhment of ſuch as think Congruouſly to the Subject before them, that That *Honourable Body* ſhould preſume to Interrogate only thoſe that they underſtood to be concern'd in the *Report*, (come they by't how they would) and any way able to ſpeak to the Buſineſs; and induſtriouſly to wave the Examination of Honeſt *Nick No-body*, the Men of *O Brazil*, the *Iſle* of *Pines*, or the *Inchanted-Caſtle*: The *Being* of ſuch a People, and of any Perſons, (at any time beyond Sea) that can ſafely ſwear that

the *King* was, or ever expresʃ'd Himſelf to be Marry'd to any other Woman, than His preſent Wife, Queen *Catherine*, ſtanding upon an equal *Level* with the moſt Palpable *Fictions*.

LET. *And, as I dare boldly affirm, That there is no one Perſon, who is accuſtomed to the Fellowſhip of the* Town, *who hath not heard of ſuch a Marriage; So it is uncontroulably known, that there was, in* Oliver's *Time, a Letter intercepted from the* King *to the ſaid* Lady, *then in the* Tower, *Superſcribed,* To his Wife.

ANS. Should the Confident Aſſertions of thoſe that are Obnoxious to the moſt Scandalous Imputations, come once to be allowed Concluſive of Truths; there would be no dealing with my Adverſary at ſuch his only, and peculiar Weapons: But ſince thoſe good Dayes are not likely to come at all, or (at leaſt) not yet; I ſhall venture to demand his *Affidavit*, in

in proof of the Intercepting of a *Letter* from His *Majeſty*, bearing ſo Extravagant a *Superſcription*, as he here pretends; Or rather, let him (if he can) produce the very *Letter* it ſelf: For the Matter requires to be ſtrongly prov'd, and argues the *Wretch* to have been mighty intimate with that *Uſurper*: nor is it at all improbable (truly) but that he had much more certain Knowledge of what, in thoſe Dayes, paſſed at *London*, than at *Bruxels*: And ſo far is it from being (as he avers) *Uncontroulably Known*, that I do verily believe, not *Twenty* Men in the Nation ever heard of any ſuch thing, before the Birth of this *Modeſt Epiſtle*; nor *Ten*, (excepting even himſelf alſo out of the Number) at This Hour, give Credit to it. But now I think on't; he is to be excus'd, if in hopes of doing his Buſineſs with the *Multitude*, barely by *Telling* of Lyes, he ſhew'd a little Backwardneſs to run the Riſque of his *Ears*, (and *Neck* too, perhaps) by *Swearing* to them.

LET. *Nor is it unknown with what Homage the* King's *Party, in* England, *at That time, paid their Devotion, and Teſtify'd their Obedience to Her: For, as they Addreſſed to Her upon the Knee; ſo by That, and many other Symbols, they declared, that they eſteem'd Her for no leſs than the Lawful* Wife *of their* King *and* Maſter.

ANS. This *Circumſtance* is full as Untrue, as the Other, but much more Weak; (and indeed, he ſpeaks too ſlightly of the *Royalliſts*, to be one of Them himſelf, or able to avouch this *Flam* upon his own Knowledge) For, What does it *Conclude*, if the *Cavaliers*, out of the Profound Veneration they bare to their *Sovereign*, ſcrupled not to pay a Reſpectful Complacency to one that they knew him to have had a Kindneſs for; eſpecially, at a Juncture, when a different Method of Addreſs would not have made for His *Majeſtie*'s Service: The *Queſtion* is not, *what they took Her to be?* but, *What She really was?* and *That*

That we have been ſatisfy'd in, by the only Perſon that was able to do it: Nor would Ten Thouſand ſuch *Negative* Surmizes, at the *Bar* of *Law* and *Reaſon*, in the leaſt operate upon the Validity of ſo Poſitive and Aſſertory an *Evidence*.

Were I but capable of making half as Familiar with my *Betters*, as this *Libeller* has done, I might have been infinitely more *Particular* both upon This *Period*, and the whole *Paragraph* too; and made it as much for my Turn to deliver by what Means, and upon what Account, Mrs. *Walters* came to be put into the *Tower*, as He thought it was for His, to be ſilent in That Point: But my *Aim* is only to vindicate the *Truth*, and not to draw *Perſonal Reflections* unneceſſarily or unjuſtifyably. What I have ſaid, will (I perſwade my ſelf) be found *Fair*, nay, and as *Full* too, as ſo nice and unpleaſing a Subject would bear; but ſure I am, (however) that it is in Subſerviency to *Honeſt* Ends: And to manifeſt how far I am from deſigning

ſigning Scandal or Reproach, *Hereby*, I ſhall Finiſh this *Section* with ſubjoining, That as it becomes *Charity* no more than *Diſcretion*, to upbraid Others with ſuch Imperfections, as by Accident may fall to, or accompany People from their Birth, and which are as little in the *Owner's* Power to help, as it lies in the *Scorner's* Ability to ſhield his own Perſon or Iſſue from falling into a like Diſaſter; ſeeing none are ſo preciſely Happy, as not ſooner or later, in their Bodies, Minds, Families, or Eſtates, to receive ſome *Blemiſh*, if not an ugly *Mulct*, from the Hand of Fortune, to whoſe Injuries the beſt Men are ſubject during This Life: So that, which to me appears to be the higheſt Injuſtice is, the Imputation of *Baſtardy*, which in no Nation is look'd upon under ſo great a Notion of Reproach, as amongſt the *Engliſh*, tho for the moſt part (and in This Caſe more eminently) Recompenc'd with the Richeſt Endowments; Becauſe, if a Fault, it belongs ſolely to the

the Parents, and therefore it must needs be the less discernable, through what Organ of *Equity* any more than an ordinary Human Contamination should attach the Child; especially, if we consider, that the single *Security* of a *wife*, (of no great Validity in other Matters) is the chief Authentick Proof we can produce, for the Integrity of those we esteem most *Legitimate*.

SECT. VIII.

LET. 'TIS *of no great Concernment, who is the* Immediate, Apparent Heir *in the* Regal Line, *if we do but consider that the* Parliament *of* England *hath often provided a* Successour *to the Government, when the Interest of the Publick hath required it, without the least Regard to such* Punctillo's.

ANS.

ANS. Now he begins to Unmask, and to discover what he would be at! Wherefore, it is but meet to Recollect, *First*, That Magna Charta (which has been Confirm'd in *Thirty Three Parliaments*, and declar'd to be the *Summary* of all Antient *Laws* and *Customs*, Consonant to the *Dictates* of *Nature*, the *Limit* of the *King*'s *Prerogative*, and the *Subject*'s *Liberties*, and so Sacred and Inviolable, that any *Statute* or *Judgment* Made or Given contrary to the Tenour of it, is to be accounted *ipso facto*, Null and Voyd) Provides, That *No* Free-man *shall be Disseiz'd of his* Free-hold, *put by his* Inheritance, *or Fore-judged of* Life *or* Limb, *but by Legal Process, the Laws of the Land, and Judgment of his Peers*; That *The* King's *Right and Priviledges shall be Preserv'd untouch'd*; and That *The* Hereditaryness *of this Monarchy shall be so Uncontroulable, that no* Attainder *by* Parliament, *or* Otherwise, *shall hinder the Descent of the* Crown, (*the* King, *in* Law, *being supposed never to* Dye)

Dye) *upon the* Next *of* Blood: That the *Lords* and *Commons* have not only bound themselves by *Act* of *Parliament*, (1 *Jac. Cap.* 1.) To *Defend the True and Lawful* Heirs *of the* King, *acknowledged the* Undoubted Successors, *with their Lives and Fortunes, to the Worlds End*; but do also *Swear*, as often as they *Convene*, or Take the *Oaths* of *Allegiance* and *Supremacy*, to *Defend all the Priviledges, Rights, and Preheminences of the* Crown, (not excepting the *Descent in the Right Line*) *against all Pretenders whatsoever, whether Forreign or Domestick:* That *King James* tells us,, in *Pag.* 149. of his *Defence of the Right of Kings*, That *In* Hereditary Kingdoms (*nothing more Certain, nothing more Uncontroulable*) *the* King's *Death instantly maketh Livery and Seizin of the Royalty to His* Next Successor: That Sir *Edward Coke* (usually stiled the *Oracle* of the *Law*) affirmeth, both That *This Kingdom is a Monarchy* Successive *by Inherent Birth-Right, of all others the most Absolute, and Perfect Form of Government*, ex-

excluding Interregnum's, *and with them Infinite Inconveniencies*; That *All Lands within This Realm were Originally deriv'd from the* King; That *The Inheritance of our Lord the* King *is a Direct Dominion, of which none is Author but* God *alone*; and That *It is a Law and Custom of* Parliament, *That no* King *can Alien the Crown from the* Right Heir, *tho by* Consent of the Lords and Commons; Concluding thus much from the Unanimous *Answer* of the *Lords* and *Commons* in *Parliament*, to *Edward* the *Third*'s Message about some Important Matters relating to the *Crown*; Viz. *We cannot Consent to any Thing in* Parliament, *that shall tend to the* Disinherison *of the* King, *and His* Heirs, *or to the Prejudice of the* Crown, *whereunto We are Sworn*; and from a Passage in *Britton*, (*Cap.* 34.) viz. *The* Kings *of* England *can Alien nothing of the* Right *of their* Crown, *which is not Repealable by their* Successors: Nay, and (in a Word) That all the *Judges* of the *Law* expressly *Resolved*, in *Calvin*'s Case, That

King

King James's Title to the *Crown* was Founded upon the *Laws* of *Nature*; Viz. By *Inherent Birth-Right*, and *Deſcent* from the *Blood-Royal* of This *Realm*.

And *Then*, That Queen *Elizabeth* (Fam'd for One of the Beſt of our *Princes*, and the *Peoples Darling*) in the *Three* and *Twentyeth* Year of Her *Reign*; when the *Houſe of Commons*, *Firſt*, Order'd to have a Time of *Prayer* and *Humiliation* appointed, in the *Temple*, on *Sunday* Fortnight after, hinder'd it, and ſent them a *Meſſage*, expreſſing Her *Great Admiration at their Raſhneſs, in Committing ſuch an apparent Contempt of Her expreſs Command, as to put in Execution ſuch an Innovation, without Her Privity, and Pleaſure firſt known.* Whereupon the *Houſe* Submitted, Acknowledg'd the Offence and Contempt, Humbly Supplicated a Remiſſion of it, and Promis'd never again to Commit the like: In the *Eight* and *Twentyeth*, She told the Then *Houſe of Commons*, She was *Sorry they meddled with*

with Chusing and Returning Knights *of the* Shire, *for* Norfolk; *That being Impertinent for Them to deal in, and only belonging to the Office and Charge of the Lord* Chancellor, *From and To Whom the Writs Issu'd, and were Return'd:* In the *Five* and *Thirtyeth*, She sent Mr. *Wentworth*, and Sir *Henry Bromley* to the *Tower*, (tho *Members* of the Then Sitting *House of Commons*) for presuming to appear in Favour of a *Bill for the Entailing of the Succession:* In the same *Parliament*, upon Notice of a *Bill*, to be put into the *House of Commons*, against Imprisonment for Refusal of *Oaths*, and other Proceedings in the *Ecclesiastical Courts*, She sent for Sir *Edward Coke* (the *Speaker*,) and told him, *That in Calling That* Parliament, *She intended them not Leave to intermeddle in Matters of* State, *or* Causes Ecclesiastical; and Charg'd him to acquaint the *House*, That it was Her Pleasure, that *No* Bill *relating to any such Points, should be Exhibited*; and, if Exhibited, *Upon his Allegiance, not to suffer it to be Read:*

Read: Neither ſtuck She here; but took Mr. *Morrice* (Attorney of the *Court of Wards*, and one of the Promoters of This *Bill*) out of the *Commons Houſe*, by a *Serjeant at Arms*, and Committed him to Priſon; ſmartly Returning to the *Commons*, Supplicating for his Liberty, *That they did him more Hurt than Good, by That their Addreſs; For She would not endure to be queſtion'd in what She did of Her* Royal Authority; *nor that They ſhould pry into Matters of that Nature:* In the *Thirty-Nineth*, She not only told the *Commons*, That *Their Priviledge* was *Yea and No*; and that She would *Not allow of any Debates There, toward the Reforming of the Church, or Transforming the Common-Wealth*; but, at the End of That *Seſſion*, Rejected *Forty-Eight Bills*, that had Paſs'd *Both Houſes:* Nor was She wanting to Suppreſs the *Inſolence* of *Bell*, *Mounſon*, and divers other Members of the *Lower-Houſe*, (who, as *Plenipotentiaries* (forſooth) of the whole Kingdom, undertook to *Decide* and

Settle the Succession,) by a *Prince-like Speech* in the *Parliament*; *We see* (saies this Noble *Heroina*) *that your Whole* House *may be divided into Four sorts; for some have been Plotters and Authors; some Actors, who with smooth Words have perswaded; some have Consented, being seduc'd with those smooth Words; and some again, have been Silent, admiring such Boldness. For Our Part, whether We see such a* Parliament *again, We know not; but for You, take heed lest you Provoke your Prince's Patience:* Her *Declaration* also for assisting the *Nether-Lands* (Printed *Anno* 1585.) begins Thus; *Although Kings, and Sovereign Princes, owing their Homage and Service only to Almighty* God, *the King of all Kings, in That Respect are not bound to yield Account, or render a Reason of Their Actions, to any other but* God *Their Sovereign; and though, among the most Antient, and Christian Monarchs, the same Lord* God *hath committed unto Us the Sovereignty of the Kingdom of* England, *which we Hold* Immediately of the same Almighty

God,

God, *and thereby Account only to His Divine Majesty; yet We are, notwithstanding This Our Prerogative, moved to Declare,* &c.

King *James* likewise, sent This Letter, from *New-Market*, to Sir *Thomas Richardson*, (*Speaker* of the *House of Commons*, whom He perceiv'd to be making too Familiar with His *Prerogative*); *we have heard to Our Grief, that Our Distance from the* Parliament, *caused by Our Indisposition of Health, hath emboldened some Fiery and Popular Spirits of the* Lower-House, *to Debate Matters above their Capacity, to Our Dishonour, and Breach of Prerogative-Royal. These are therefore to Command you, to make known to Them, that none here-after shall presume to meddle with* Any Thing concerning the Government, *or* Matters of State, *with Our* Son's *Match with the* Daughter *of* Spain, *nor to touch the Honour of* That King, *or any other Our* Friends *and* Confederates; *nor with any Man's Particulars, which have their due Motion in any of Our Courts of Justice.*

And whereas they have sent a Message to Sir Edward Sandys, *to know the Reasons of his late Restraint; you shall Resolve Them, it was not for any Misdemeanour of his in* Parliament: *But, to put Them out of Doubt of any Question, here-after, of that Nature;* **We think Our Self very Free and Able to Punish any Man's Misdemeanors in Parliament, as well Sitting there, as after:** *which We mean not to spare here-after, upon any Occasion of any Man's. And if They have touch'd any Point, which We have here Forbidden, in any Petition of theirs, which is to be sent to Us; tell Them, (except They Reform it) We will not Deign the Hearing or Answering of it,* December 3. 1621. Nor did He take Them up less roundly in another Letter, from the same Place, for calling Their *Priviledges* Their Antient and Undoubted Inheritance: *Most Priviledges of* Parliament (sayes He) *grew from Precedents; which shews rather a Toleration, than an Inheritance; wherefore, We cannot allow of the Stile, calling them your Antient*

and

and Undoubted Right and Inheritance; but could rather have wiſh'd that you had ſaid, Thoſe Priviledges were derived from the Grace and Permiſſion of Our Anceſtors, and Us. —— We cannot with Patience endure Our Subjects to uſe ſuch **Anti-monarchical Words**, *concerning their* **Liberties**, *except They ſubjoyn, that they* **Were Granted unto Them by the Grace and Favour of Our Predeceſſors**, *&c.*

So that, if *Edward the Fourth*, *Henry the Seventh*, Queen *Mary*, Queen *Elizabeth*, and King *James*, enjoy'd the Crown, tho all Excluded by *Acts* of *Parliament*: If, according to the *Proteſtation* made to the Late *King*, upon His Paſſing the *Petition of Right*; Viz. *The Two Houſes have no Power to hurt or diminiſh the Royal Prerogative, as being Sworn to Maintain and Defend it, to their Uttermoſt*: If the Laws of *God*, and *Nature*, be abſolutely Immutable; and upon *Them*, and the *Common Principles* of all *Hereditary Kingdoms*, the *Fundamental* Cuſtoms and Conſtitutions of This Nation are

Founded; and by all *These*, by *Inherent Birth-Right*, and *Undoubted Succession*, the *Crown* Descends upon the *Next Heir* of the Blood-Royal, (any *Act*, *Crime*, or *Attainder* of *Treason* notwithstanding) at the Instant of Time that the *Possessor* does not so much *Dye*, as by a *State-Metempsychosis Transmit* into his Nostrils, his Body, his Life, his Breath, his Soul, I may say; as the *Citations* out of our most Eminent *Lawyers*, and the *Acts* and *Declarations* (as above) of divers *Parliaments*, that were neither over-aw'd by any Prevailing Faction, Circumvented by Designing Intriguers, nor vainly flatter'd themselves with the Idle Conceit of an *Omnipotent Power*, to Create and Annihilate *Kings*; but wholly actuated by the Love of Truth, and a Sense of Loyalty, to a Recognition of their Natural Sovereign; do abundantly satisfy: This *Creature* may present the Matter as a bare *Punctillo*, and of *no Concernment*, or in what other Degrading Shape he lists; but, while there is a *God* in Heaven,

or

or Right or Wrong upon Earth, will never be able (ſo much it is beyond the Wit of Man) to Demonſtrate that the *King*, and *Parliament Together*, perhaps; but however, that the *People*, (Collectively or Repreſentatively) [tho by *Club-Law*, (which, to ſuch as fear neither *God* nor Man, is *Lex Legum*, and the Sole Rule of their Actions) they may ſometimes not only *Exclude* the *Lawful Heir*, but alſo *Depoſe* the *Poſſeſſor* of the Crown; yet] can, with Juſtice, or a Good Conſcience, alter the *Succeſſion*, debar either the *One*, or the *Other*, from Their Right, or give any better Title to the *Sovereignty*, than the Late *Uſurper* had.

And again; If the fore-going Particulars concerning Queen *Elizabeth*, and King *James*, be Authentical; as *Camden*, *Howel*, *Filmer*, *Sanderſon*, &c. do aver: If, before the Time of *Henry the Third*, the *Great Councel* or *Parliament*, (as ſtiled after the *Conqueſt*) [Whereunto, from all Parts of the Kingdom, reſorted Confuſed Mul-

titudes, by Themſelves, or their Attorneys or Lawyers; There, by Petition, to preſent their Grievances; (the *Lords* ſtill appointing a Select Number of their Members, (the Ground of our *Committees* at this Day) to Peruſe and Report what of thoſe *Petitions* were fit for the Cognizance of the whole *Houſe*) and, *Bare-headed*, Attended for, and Conſented to their Determinations, in ſuch ſort as now do *Plaintiffs* and *Defendants*, to the Judges Reſolutions, in the Courts of *Weſtminſter-Hall*: This *Practice*, and that *Paſſage*, *To this* Curia Magna, *repair'd the Princes, Lords, Chief Men, and* Lawyers, *from all Quarters of the Realm*; as *Spelman, Houeden, Malmsbury, Matthew Paris*, &c. have it; in After-Ages, giving Riſe alſo to the Miſtake, (that *Bacon, Petyte*, &c. have ſo lately ſplit upon) as if thoſe *Lawyers*, who in truth were only the Attorneys, and Pleaders of their Clients Cauſes, made a Part of this *Great Councel*,] was Compoſed only of the *Lords Spiritual* and *Temporal*, by the King's

King's *Writ*, and in His *Preſence*, Conven'd, and Aſſembl'd: And if That *Prince*, to Reduce ſuch a *Chaos* to a Regular Meeting, and Clip the Wings of His Diſloyal and Ambitious *Barons*, (who had ſeverely handled his Father *John*, as well as Himſelf, and whoſe Power was Then grown ſo Exorbitant, as, without ſuch a *due poiſing*, to threaten the Ruin of *Monarchy* it ſelf, in this Nation) perfected the Project of the *Firſt Harry*, (who, to ſupport his Uſurpation againſt his Elder Brother *Robert*, ſought to curry Favour with the People, by ſome inconſiderable Condeſcenſions of the like quality) by Ordering that every *Shire* and *Burrough* in the Land, ſhould ſend Two *Knights*, and Two *Burgeſſes*, (in the Choice whereof no Man was Refuſed a Voice, till the *Statute* of 8 *Hen.* 6. limited the Election to *Free-Holders only*) to Serve as *Attorneys* for all the Reſt; And inveſted this *New Conſtitution* with a Power not much unlike that of the *Tribunes* of the People among the *Romans*, without whoſe

Consent nothing could be Enacted, by the *Senate*, to the Prejudice of the *Commonalty*; with a Right to the *First Motions* of *Grants*, and Aids or Subsidies, to Pray and Receive such Redress of Grievances, as the *King*, with the Advice of His *Barons*, should vouchsafe; and to signify as much to the Respective Places for which they Serv'd, because *Printing* was not as yet found out, and *Promulgation* of Absolute Necessity to the Obligation of all Positive Sanctions; and likewise, with such other Priviledges, as might be sufficient to Compleat the *Libration*, and Answer the Ends he propounded in their Establishment; The *House of Lords* still continuing to be the *Supreme Court* of *Judicature*, and the *Ultimate Decider* of *Appeals*; where, according to their *First Institution*, no *Original Cause* was to take Place: It is but fit, that every *House of Commons* should, in their Actings, have some small Regard, at least, to the *Primary Intent* of their *Institution*, [Which even the very *Writ* of

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Summons it ſelf, expreſſes to be ſimply to *Conſent to, and Execute what the* King, *with the Advice of the* Lords, *ſhall Decree*; Thereby beſpeaking them entirely Dependent upon the *Prince*'s Pleaſure, and, *ex Inſtituto*, incapable of Intermeddling, without His Leave, in any thing, but what Himſelf ſhall from time to time Propoſe] and Cultivate the Peaceable Politicks of our Happy Anceſtors, by Modeſty and Moderation in Speech and Act; that ſo They neither Forfeit the Truſt Repoſed in Them by Their *Deputers*, [For tho by a Fiction in Law, they are Reputed the *Repreſentative Body* of the *People* of *England*, becauſe the *King* commonly takes Them for ſuch, yet really They Repreſent not the *Tenth Part* of the People; and therefore, whenſoever They proceed contrary to *Law*, or endeavour to Act any thing without the *Royal* Aſſent, *eo ipſo*, They forfeit the Benefit of this Fiction in *Law*, and are no longer to be Reputed the *Peoples Repreſentatives*] nor Ungratefully, or Diſreſpectfully, treat

treat the *Fountain* of That Grace and Bounty, where-from they Originally derived what-ever Power or Priviledge they can any way pretend to: *Qui dat esse, dans Consequentiam ad Esse.* So much was Sir *Orlando Bridgman* (after *Lord-Keeper*) in the Right, when, upon the Tryal of the *Regicides*, he said; *True it is, we have as great Liberties, as any People in the World; but let us own them where they are due; we have them by the Concession of our* Princes.

LET. *They who prefer'd* William Rufus, *and* Henry *the* First, *to* Robert; (*tho Eldest Son of* William *the* Conquerour) *What can They not do, when weighty Reasons and Causes influence them unto it?*

ANS. They who Fought, Imprison'd, Depos'd, and Murther'd **Charles the First**, Banish'd & Abjured **Charles the Second**, and the *Whole Line of the* **Stewarts**; made a *Foot-Ball* of the *Crown*, turn'd the *Government* into *Aristocracy*, *Democracy*, *Anarchy*; and

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at length Exalted, and Swore Allegiance to the *Monstrous Cromwel*; What can they not do, when Weighty Reasons and Causes Influence them to it? And then, What *Choice* or *Preference* was there, in the Cases he urges, more than *This*; That the Two *Younger Brothers*, taking Advantage of the *Elder*'s being in the *Holy Land*, at the Time of their *Father*'s Death, made a Party Competent to Seat them in the Throne, Successively; and afterward, by Force and Fraud, maintain'd what by Craft and Violence they had thus Usurp'd?

LET. *And they who advanc'd* Stephen *before* Maud, *and* John *before his Eldest Brother*'s *Son*; *can they not, when the Safety of the Kingdom requireth it, put the* Scepter *into whose hands they please?*

ANS. The same Power that put the *Scepter* into *Voll*'s Hand, or into *William Rufus*'s, gave it also to *These*; and may undoubtedly, should a like

oppor-

opportunity happen again, dispose of it (as before) to such as will have it in spite of them: For these were not *Legal Parliaments*, [There being no *Legal Kings* in place, to Assemble any such; nor can it be alledg'd, that the *Two Houses* (the *People*, or what you will) are capable of turning an *Usurper* into a *Lawful Prince*, without running upon This *Dilemma*, *viz.* Either these *Statute-Kings*, who by *Birth* have no Title to the *Crown*, are *True Kings* before They are Voted such, or not; if They be, They derive no Power from *Thence*, nor owe (as is pretended) Their Sovereignty to the *People*; if not, They have no Power to Summon *Parliaments*; it being as Prepostrous and Unreasonable, that an *Unlawful King* should Summon a *Lawful Parliament*, as that an *Unlawful Parliament* should make a *Lawful King*: So that, what *Parliaments* were heretofore Summon'd by these *Statute-Kings*, were Null and Voyd from the Beginning; for That *Great Body* cannot Lawfully Meet, unless Lawfully Sum-

Summon'd; nor can it be Lawfully Summon'd, but by a Lawful *King*, much leſs Confer any *Sovereign Power*, or Enact any *Firm Laws*, that ſhall not need an *After-Confirmation* by *Legal Parliaments*; all the *Acts* of *Hen.* 4. *H.* 5. and *H.* 6. grounded upon the *Statute* for *Depoſing King Richard the Second*, being deemed of no Force, until expreſly Confirm'd by *Ed.* 4. in the ſame Manner as His Sacred *Majeſty*, that NOW is, Ratify'd the *Judicial Proceedings* of the Late *Uſurpation:* Nor indeed, has ever any *Prince*, as yet, pretended to Claim the *Crown*, in *Parliament*, upon any other Score, than that of *Birth-Right.*] but only *Traiterous Routs* of Abettors of as great *Traitors* as themſelves, in their Invaſions, and Uſurpations upon the *Rights* of Others.

Neither is *Story* ſilent, as to the Conſequences of theſe Unjuſt Practices: Valiant *Stephen*, after much Blood-ſhed, being forc'd (it tells us) to Deſtroy the Pretenſes of His *Line*, and become *Tenant for Life*, for the

Crown.

Crown, to *Maud*'s Son *Henry* (afterward the *Second* of That Name;) and *John* [whose Unfortunate Government should, in my Opinion, rather terrify from Countenancing Usurpations for the Future, than give any Encouragement to bring so unhappy a Prince upon the Stage, to mind all sober Men of the Dismal Effects inseparable from the Peoples Temerity in intermeddling in so nice a Poynt as that *Noli me Tangere* of the *Succession* of the *Crown*] perpetually engaged in *Civil Broyls*, and coming to an *Untimely End*, (being poyson'd by a *Monk*) after all; tho by the *True Heir*'s Dying without *Issue*, long before him, his *Usurpation* at last became a *Lawful Sovereignty*. And we do not Read, that the like Proceedings ever terminated in any better *Event*; for, Who would not have thought, that the Power and Policy of *H.* 4. and the Prodigious Successes of *H.* 5. had Unquestionably ensur'd the *Crown* to *H.* 6? And yet *Richard Plantagenet*, *Duke* of *York*, no sooner (*Anno* 1460.) Claim'd

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in *Parliament*, the Crowns of *England* and *France*, as being *Next Heir* to *Lionel* Duke of *Clarence*, Elder Brother to *John* of *Gaunt*, of whom deſcended the Houſe of *Lancaſter*; but, notwithſtanding the *Act entailing* it upon This *Henry*'s Grand-Father, [The ſayd Duke unanſwerably Replying to That Pretenſe, That *if King* Henry *the* Fourth *might have obtained the ſaid Crown of* England *and* France *by* Title *of* Inheritance, Deſcent, *or* Succeſſion; *he neither needed, nor would have deſired, or made them to be granted to him, in* Such-wiſe *as they be, by* That Act; *which* (ſayes he) *taketh no place, neither is of any Force, or Effect againſt Him that is* Right Inheritor *of the ſaid Crowns; as accordeth with the Laws of* God, *and all* Natural *Laws. Rot. Parl.* 36. and 6. *N.* 10. &c.] his *Title* was, by the ſame *Parliament*, expreſly Recogniz'd and Declar'd to be *Good, True, Juſt, Lawful and Sufficient:* [As, upon his Death ſoon after, was alſo in full *Parliament*, (the ſame Year) that of his *Eldeſt Son Edward*,

ward, in these words; *Knowing also certainly, and without Doubt, and Ambiguity, that by* God's *Law, and Law of* Nature, *He* (i. e. K. *Ed.* 4.) *and none other, is, and ought to be* True, Rightwise, and Natural, Liege *and* Sovereign Lord; *And that he was, in Right, from the Death of the said Noble and Famous Prince his Father, very* Just King *of the same Realm of* England. *Rot. Parl.* 1. *Ed.* 4. *N.* 8. &c.] And that *Innocent*, Unfortunate Prince forc'd to expiate, with his Blood, for the Violations of his Progenitors. So True is that known *Hexameter*

In Male quæsitis vix gaudet Tertius Hæres.

LET. *Nor hath* Bastardy *it self been an Obstruction to the Conferring the* Crown *upon a Person, provided all Things else have Corresponded with the Desires and Humours of the People: For not only* Athelstan (*the Great* Saxon King) *was such, but* Queen Mary *or* Queen Elizabeth *must be so Blazoned;*

and

and yet all Three *were Exalted to the* Regal Throne: *And* Two *of Them not only approved Themselves worthy of the Trust Reposed in Them; but have Consigned down that Stock of* Fame *and* Credit, *which, few attaining unto, hath left a Reproach upon most* Princes *that Succeeded Them.*

ANS. What does he tell us of *The Humours and Desires of the People?* Will a *Popular Caprice* warrant *Unjust Acts?* If *Athelstan* was a *Bastard*, the *Fundamental Constitutions* of the Kingdom pronounce Him an *Usurper:* [Nor can a Submission to his *Tyranny* be construd a Consenting to His *Election*, without admitting either that such a Consent can give no *Legal Title*, or that it is impossible for any Man to *Usurp* the *Crown*; And so *Old Noll* must come to be acknowledg'd to have been the True and Lawful *Governour* of these Three Nations; and all those that made Parties against him, on His *Majesty*'s Behalf, Traitors and Rebels.] But Sir *Winston Churchil*, in his *Divi*

Britannici, avouches for his *Legitimacy*; and for the Truth of This Memorable Story too; that he endanger'd the loss of his Kingdom, by committing, out of *Jealousy of State*, his Brother *Edwyn* to the Mercy of the Seas, in a Vessel without Tacle: Of which, when he was put in mind, by his *Cup-Bearer*'s unwittingly saying, upon recovering with One Foot the slip of the Other, *See how One Brother helps Another*; He cry'd out, *Ah Traytor! Liveſt thou to upbraid me with that Sin and Folly, whereof thy Self waſt the Author?* and thereupon, caus'd him to be immediately Strangled in his Presence.

As to the *Queens*, *Mary* and *Elizabeth*; had he but studyed *Coke* half as much as he has done *Buchanan*, he might have found the *Common-Law*, (Their Circumstances consider'd) allowing of the *Validity* of Both Their *Titles*; nay, and perhaps the *Canon* too. But This is not my Business, at this time, to make out. And then, his *Complement* upon the *Latter*, is, (rightly understood) no other than

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an Expreſſion of the extraordinary Kindneſs he has for the *Royal Family*.

LET. *Even* Henry the Seventh, (*from whom Our* King *derives His Title, and Right of Succeſſion*) *ſprung from a* Baſtard; *who had nothing to render Him capable to convey a Claim to His Poſterity, but that He was made* Legitimate, *by* Parliament.

ANS. This is an Inſinuation equally Malicious and Diſingenuous. *Henry* the *Seventh* (as well as his Predeceſſor *Richard* the *Third*) had all that a *Parliament* (as he calls it) could give him, to ſtrengthen his Title; and yet all was too little, for he was ſtill as much an *Uſurper* as was that *Other Monſter*. Only here's the difference; that by prudently Marrying the Lady *Elizabeth*, Eldeſt Daughter to *Edward the Fourth* and conſequently *Immediate Heireſs* of the Crown, this *Henry* (after a Sort) *Legitimated* his *Domination*: And ſo,

tho he had no good *Title* of himself, yet he left an *Unquestionable* One; beyond *That* of any *Issue* that Queen *Mary* might have had by *Philip of Spain*. Nor was it to be accounted any *Misfortune*, (perhaps) that he did not so long Survive his *Queen*, as till his *Children* were out of their *Minority*; for so *Forward* a *Prince* as was his Son and Successor, *Henry the Eighth*, would, in all *probability*, have given him to understand to his Grief, that he conceiv'd himself Capable of Swaying the *English Scepter*, without the Assistance of a *Guardian*. And thus have I sufficiently Explained (I hope) what this *Sophister* (to amuse the *People*) so industriously sought to Intricate.

But to what Purpose now, serve all the *Examples* thus Confidently produc'd? [Is it not Madness to the Highest Degree, to urge such *Acts* and *Instances*, for *Precedents* for *Us* to walk by, as were never held of greater Force or Validity, than the Wild *Ordinances* of the *Rump-Parliament*? What, tho *Harry the Eighth* (as That

Gang

Gang ſo often tell us) made a *Stalking-Horſe* of his *Parliaments*, to ſerve his own Private Ends, by a Limiting and Altering the *Succeſſion*? For either thoſe *Extravagant Statutes* were Good in Law and Obligatory, or they were not; if *not*, then *Acts* of *Parliament*, contrary to the *Right* of *Succeſſion*, are (confeſſedly) Null and Voyd in *Law*; if they *were*, by what Authority was the *Houſe of Suffolk* (to which thoſe *Acts* gave away the *Crown*) *Excluded*, or *King James Admitted*, notwithſtanding the many *Statutes* made againſt Him? Or, How can we clear our *Anceſtors* from manifeſt *Perjury*, in ſolemnly ſwearing to maintain thoſe *Statutes*; unleſs we conclude they were *Illegal* and *Voyd* from the Beginning, as being notoriouſly Repugnant to all *Laws*, *Humane* and *Divine*; and conſequently, not fit to be obſerv'd; becauſe *What is ill Sworn, is worſe Kept.*] For, the *Queſtion* is not, *Here*, *Whether* de facto *the Succeſſion* Has *been Alter'd, and the Government Chang'd*; but, *Whether*, *without Violation of Juſtice*, *and*

the Principles of Right Reason, it May be *so.* No Man ever doubted, but Power, Rebellion, and Faction, with the Concurrence of Timorous and Easy *Princes*, did often turn Things into *Tragical* Confusions, and Un-hinge the whole Frame of the Government: But, far be it from *Us*, to ground the *Lawfulness* of our *Actions* upon so weak a *Topick*, as That of *Example*; Far be it from *Us* to think, that, because, by the Treasons and Conspiracies of Ambitious and Designing Persons, the *Crown* was now and then Transferr'd from *One Family* to *Another*, therefore we may safely do the like; when the Occasions of such *Innovations* are perfectly taken away, not only by the *Conjunction* of the *White* and *Red Roses*, but also, by the Concentring of the *Blood Royal* of the *Three* Kingdoms, in the Person of our Present **Monarch**. To Attempt *This*, were to bring upon the People all the Miseries to which the Unsteady Course of Human Affairs can subject them: For, where a Gap is once o-

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pen'd to *Ambition*, and *Snatchings one from another*, the moſt Bloody Commotions imaginable do uſually ſucceed; in which, *Neceſſity* obliging the ſeveral Parties to the Practice of Promiſcuous Violences, Depredations, and Slaughters; the *Multitude*, at length, are weary'd with the Cruelties and Calamities of *War*, and ſo, to Purchaſe *Peace* at any Rate, not ſeldom ſurrender their *Liberties* at the Foot of the *Conqueror*, and make the Univerſal Deſolation of their *Country*, its Grave: So Terrible an *Inſtance* of *This* Nature our *Late Troubles* furniſh, that none ſurely, but ſuch are Deſtin'd to *Slavery*, or Betrayers of the *Engliſh Liberties*, will, a Second Time, venture upon the like *Tranſgreſſions*. In *Brief*, no *Crime* can be perpetrated, no *Uſurpation* introduc'd, no *Indignity* offer'd even to *Heaven* it ſelf, if Their being Subſequent to a like Practice of *Former Ages*, muſt be allow'd for Competent, to free ſuch Enormities from Guilt. *Rebellion* is as Antient as the *Creation*; it, *Firſt*, Divided

vided the Court of *Heaven*, and deprived *Lucifer*, and his *Accomplices*, of their Glory; and, *Then*, threw *Man*, out of the *Garden of Eden*, and the State of *Innocence*, into a Rough Tract of the *Earth*, and yet Rougher Anguiſhes and Perplexities of *Sin*: An Obedience to *God*'s Command, to *Increaſe and Multiply*, was not long paid; but *One* of the *Few Inhabitants* of the *World* (and he the moſt *Harmleſs* too) fell a Sacrifice to his *Brother*'s Envy, and *Maker*'s Affection: *Idolatry* (the *Jews* only Excepted) was the *Common Worſhip* of Mankind: And, what-ever *Species* of *Chriſtianity* might, at Firſt, be Planted in This *Iſland*; yet certain it is, that *Popery* was the *Legal* and *Known Religion*, Univerſally Embrac'd by the People: But *God* forbid, we ſhould, Now, conclude *Rebellion*, *Murther*, *Idolatry*, and *Popery*, to be all *Lawful*, meerly becauſe we find Times of Old to be Memorable for ſuch *Impieties*: It being no *Plea* in *Divinity*, to alledge, as an *Excuſe*, the *Preſcription* which *Sin* has gained over Us.

SECT.

SECT. IX.

LET. SEventhly, *The* Councel *had done a Thing grateful to the Nation, and Conſonant to their Oaths and Duty; if, inſtead of Attempting to Eſtabliſh the* Duke *of* York, *as* Heir Apparent, *They had Examin'd, whether, notwithſtanding his Affinity to the* King, *he hath not, by manifold Treaſons againſt the* Perſon *of His* Majeſty, *as well as againſt the* Government, *Forfeited his Life to Juſtice, and made himſelf obnoxious to a* Scaffold, *while he is pretending to a Throne. He is yet a* Subject, *and Accountable for the Breach of the* Laws; *and why his Crimes ſhould find Shelter in his Greatneſs, I know not.*

ANS. I have already been ſo Expreſs, as to *Councel's* Proceeding upon

on This Affair; that it were needleſs to dilate much further in their Vindication: So that, in Return to this Compound of *Scandal* and *Tautology*, it may ſuffice to Obſerve, *Firſt*; That, had there been (as there was not) any *Legal Charge* There Exhibited againſt the *Duke of York*; yet, if (as he ſayes) They have neither *Legiſlative*, nor *Judicial Power*, they were as little able to Queſtion him, upon it, for Life; as ever they deſigned to eſtabliſh him *More Heir Apparent*, than all Men know, and *Parliaments* themſelves have frequently acknowledg'd him to be: *Secondly*, That This *Libeller*, having long ſince made Notorious Ship-Wrack of his Own *Conſcience* and *Loyalty*, is altogether unfit to direct or inſtruct Others, in ſuch Particulars of their Duty; and cannot fairly preſume that his *Blackeſt Smutt* will do any ſort of prejudice to the moſt *Glorious Character* and *Unblemiſh'd Reputation* in the World: And *Laſtly*; That if, by thus villanouſly preſenting his *R. H.* for an *Enemy* to the *State*, and

an

an *Object* of the *People*'s *Jealouſy*, he did not propoſe to himſelf, (computing upon the *Means*, whereby was wrought the *Tragical Exit* of the Late Duke of *Buckingham*) to reach That *Life* by *Tumult* or *Treachery*, which the *Law* Defends; he could not handſomely doubt, but that the *Duke*'s *Innocence*, (without his *Greatneſs*) is Competent to Protect him againſt *Calumny* and *Slander*; or ſo long, at leaſt, as till Perſons can be found, to *Depoſe* Matter enough to ground a Judicial Proceſs upon.

LET. *'Tis in vain to pretend to the Right of Succeſſion, when his Treaſons were a Self-Depoſition, were he Actually Repugnant. Whoſoever Conſpires againſt any one Port of the Conſtitution, forfeits all he can Claim by any Other Branch of it. To be Acceſſary to a* Plot *for the Deſtruction of the People, is to obdicate himſelf from all Legal Pretences of Reigning over them.*

ANS. Here you have, with the Sleight

Sleight of a *Hocus*, the *Argument* transferr'd from a *King* in *Possibility*, to a *King* Actually *Regnant*; and as Formal a *Plea* for the *Sovereignty* of the *People*, as ever *Jesuit* yet Pen'd for the *Superiority* of his Master the *Pope*: And in Truth, it was from That *Quiver*, that all these Levelling and Hellish Principles and Positions were Originally shot; for his *Holyness*, at the Councel of *Constance*, pressing hard for an *Unaccountableness*, and other dangerous *Licences*; They were fain to allow him to be *Greater*, than any *One Particular Member*, but *Inferior* to the *Whole Body*; with sund'ry other Prerogatives, that no *Pope* before, had ever the *Confidence* to Ask, or *Councel* to Give: Now *John Major*, (*Buchanan*'s Tutor) being a mighty Stickler for these *Ecclesiastical Pre-eminences*; his Docile Scholar, upon a Pick taken up against the *Court of Scotland*, cleverly Transplanted all his Master's Extravagant *Tenets*, from the *Church*, into the *State*; and in his *Dialogue* concerning the *Rights* of the *Scottish Realm*,

Realm, (from whence This *Pamphletiere*, and all our *Demagogues*, do generally fetch their *Anti-Monarchical Theſes*) Inveſted the *Multitude* with all the the *Authorities* over their *Princes*, that the *Other* had placed in the *Biſhop* of *Rome*. And This is the true Extraction of Thoſe, that are now under Cognizance. Now, the Tranſition from the *Heir* to the *Poſſeſſor*, is ſo Natural, and their Intereſts ſo abſolutely One and the Same, that what-ever operates to the Prejudice of the *One*, muſt needs ſenſibly affect the *Other*: It being evident, that they have both the *Same Right*, and differ only in the Time of their Enjoying it; even as an *Embrio* has as much Right to Life, as a *Child already Born*; neither is it leſs *Murther*, in the Sight of *God*, or againſt the Law of *Nature*, to procure *Abortion* in the *One*, than to *Take away the Life of the Other*. But as to the Nature of *This Government*, in General; ample Satisfaction may be had in *Stamford*, *Dyer*, *Crompton*, and *Coke*, who

who are Unanimous, that the *King is the Fountain of Justice*, and that *the Supreme Power is Solely, Peculiarly, and Incommunicably in His Hand:* And for these *Positions*, in Particular; Bishop *Maxwel*, *Diggs*, Admirable *Filmer*, (nay, and the *Preceding* Section too, by *Anticipation*) have so expresly handled, and substantially confuted them, that it may suffice, only to refer *Thither* for Content. So that, to these Flagitious and Treasonous Absurdities, I shall only oppose a Passage or Two out of a less Common Author, (*Bracton*) who is worthily Famous for his Knowledge in the *Civil* and *Common-Law*,) and so have done with them. *The King* (sayes he) *has Supreme Power in all Civil Causes, and is* (Super omnes) *over all Persons; over the Body Politick; All Jurisdictions are in Him; The Material Sword of Right belongs to Him; and whatsoever conduces to Peace; that the People committed to his Charge, may live peaceable and quiet Lives: The Power of* Parliaments, *and of Holding* Assizes, *and* Punishing

niſhing Delinquents, *is derived from Him: For Laws were vainly Enacted, if there were not ſome Body enabled to Protect Us, by Defending Them.* It is not poſſible to ſpeak more Home, than he has done in the *Fifth Paragraph*; for There he tells us, *All are under the* King, *and the* King *only under* God; *he hath no Equal in his Realm, becauſe Then, he could not Command All; foraſmuch as amongſt Equals there can be no Empire: Therefore, much leſs are any His Superiours, or can Challenge greater Power; becauſe, in ſuch a Caſe, He would be under His Subjects: The* King *is not under* Man; *nor can the* People, *under any Notion, or upon any Pretext whatſoever, call Him to an Account, or any way Injure Him, let His Crimes be never ſo Great; becauſe it is to* God *alone, that He muſt Stand or Fall; and it ought to be accounted Puniſhment ſufficient, to have the Almighty for an Avenger. If He will not hearken to our Juſt and Reaſonable Deſires, we cannot help it: For His Deeds are not to be queſtioned; much leſs may we*

Undo, by Force, what He shall Do; tho not according to Right, &c.

To conclude; *Monarchy* Compounded of *Three Co-ordinate Estates*, in plain *English*, speaks This *Non-sense*; the *Power* which *One only hath*, is in *Three, joyntly* and *equally*: Beside that, if the *King*, *Lords*, and *Commons* are *joyntly* the *Supreme Governors*, the *Correlatum* is wanting; for none are left, over whom they should Reign: we should have a *Kingdom* without a *Subject*; because *All* may Challenge a Share in the *Sovereignty*: It may be noted too, that the *Law* Entrusts the *King*, not the *People*, or the *Two Houses*, with the *Sovereignty*; for they only Represent the *Subject*, opposed to the *King*; who is their *Superior* by *Human*, and consequently *Divine Laws*; both as their *Natural King*, and as *God's Anointed*, His *Representative*.

LET. *Now the being Seduc'd, and Seducing so many of His Majesty's Subjects from the* Established Religion *to*

That

That of Popery, *is Treaſon by Two Statutes*, viz. Eliz. 22. 1. Jam. 3. 4. *and for which* (*ſay the Words of the* Statute,) They ſhall Forfeit, as in Caſes of High-Treaſon; *As the Late* Proclamation *by* King *and* Councel, *hath alſo ſignificantly declared.*

ANS. I have not yet been able to meet with any more direct Intimations of the *Duke's* Being a *Papiſt*, than his not Coming to *Church*, and Taking the *Oaths* that might Capacitate him for the Enjoyment of ſuch *Offices*, as his Birth and Merit, without Them, do juſtly Entitle him to. Now, ſuch a *Non-conformity* is agreeable not only to the ſeveral Claſſes and Sub-diviſions of *Proteſtantiſm*, but to all the *other Modes* and *Forms* of *Worſhip*, in the World: And as to his not *Swearing*; That Reluctancy may, for ought we know, rather proceed from a Belief, that all *Oaths* are Unlawful; as not only divers Chriſtians of Old, and the *Quakers* at this Day; but alſo the moſt Refined, and

ingeniously Learned of all Modern Sects (the *Socinians*,) do maintain; Than that he thinks the Matter of those that the *Law* requires, to be Damnable or Heretical. So that, all This is no more Conclusive of his Being a *Papist*, than a *Presbyterian*, *Independent*, *Quaker*, *Socinian*, nay, a *Turk*, or a *Jew*. He should have produc'd some Instances too, of such as had been Reconciled to *Rome* by the *Duke*'s Means, if he would not have had it thought, that to Calumniate, not to Prove, was the Chief of his Business; for *So many*, is just *None at all*: And it is notorious, that he not only breeds all his *Children Protestants*, but generally leaves his very *Domesticks* to the *Same* Perswations that they brought into his Service. *God* forbid, that every one should be a *Papist*, whom, not Positive Evidences, but only Faction, Malice, Presumption, or slight Circumstances, have labour'd so to Represent: But admitting (tho not granting) him to be Now of the *Romish* Communion; Who can say yet, That he

he has not been ſo ever ſince he came to the Uſe of Reaſon, and was forc'd to fly, to avoyd the Effects of the late Rebellion? If ſo; Thoſe *Rebels* that occaſioned this Evil, have more to Anſwer for, than *He* that, before his Years enabled him to underſtand better, ſuffer'd himſelf (out of an Abhorrence of ſuch Villanies) to be Seduc'd; neither is He, in That Caſe, lyable to the Pains of *Treaſon*, in theſe *Statutes* pronounced againſt the Perverters, and Perverted to *Popery*: Nay, and (in a Word) tho it were otherwiſe, yet the General *Act of Indemnity*, Paſs'd in 1673. makes him, on This Foot, ſtand *Rectus in Curia*, and Innocent before any Earthly Tribunal.

LET. *The Countenancing the Burning of* London.

ANS. Shameleſs *Impoſtor!* Was he not Then (what-ever he be Now) a Zealous *Proteſtant?* And, Is it not as undenyable, that, partly out of Gra-

titude to his Beloved *Londoners*, (whose Minion he was) but chiefly to Preserve the Magazine of the Strength and Treasure of the Kingdom from utter Ruin, he expos'd his Person to a Thousand Dangers, to Rescue the City from Destruction? Was he not as Busie and Nimble, in breaking open *Pipes* and *Conduits*, for Water, and Reaching of *Buckets*, as the meanest Person in the Streets? Did he not Clear all Passages from such Throngs and Crowds, as hinder'd the Carrying away of Goods; and appoint his *Guards* and *Servants* to Conduct them to Secure Places? In short, Was he not, for several Nights and Dayes (without Sleep, or Rest from Labour) seen in all parts, giving Necessary Orders for preventing the further Spreading of the *Conflagration*; as if *Love* (which usually works Miracles) had Multiply'd him, or rather given him a kind of *Ubiquity*? Insomuch, that, next to the Dispositions of *Providence*, we stand chiefly indebted, for what of it was left, to *His* Indefatigable Industry,

dustry, and Eminent Prudence: So far he was from *Countenancing* the Progression of the Flames! Wherefore, if the *Papists* may not, yet certainly his *R. H.* ought wholly to be Acquitted, in This Particular; especially, when we call to mind, that the *Phanatical Plotters*, Executed in *April* before, Confess'd at *Tyburn*, That they had so Contriv'd that Fatal Scene, that it could not Miscarry; and that the Event verify'd their *Prediction* to a *Day*, as to the *Fire*, tho not to the rest of their intended *Tragedy*.

LET. *The Endeavouring to Alter the* Limited Monarchy *into a* Despotick Rule.

ANS. What *Proof* of This? For let me tell the *Libeller*, (and all the *World* too) That He ever held the Constitutions of the Kingdom, as Sacred and Inviolable, in Reference to the People, as He now does in Regard of his Own Right: and hath been, by his Advice, and Influence over the

Great *Ministers*, the Principal Oppugner of all the *French Agents*; who, in Subserviency to their Evil Ends, would still be Tampering toward the Distinguishing and Raising an Opposition betwixt the *King*'s Interest, and That of the *People*. But if our Ministers have made any False Steps, 'tis nothing to Him; for every Body knows, who have been the Sole and Publick Managers of Affairs; and these can witness, that he could never be reckon'd in their Number: He was so far from being Privy to the Advice of Breaking the *Tripple-League*, or making an *Allyance* with *France*, that he no sooner heard of, but he Oppos'd it, and (with *Cassandra*'s Fate) foretold the *Issue*: He Influenc'd not a War with *Holland*; *Delenda est* Carthago, was not His Sentence; being so great a Stranger to the Attempt upon the *Smyrna Fleet*, before a Breach Declar'd; that Sir *Edward Sprigg* (who was known to be his Creature) was not thought fit to be Entrusted with the Secret; and so the Design miscarry'd,

sarily'd, not a little to His *Highness*'s Honour: He had no Hand in *Dividing* the *Fleet*, in the *First Dutch War*; Hailing it up at *Chattam*, before a *Peace* Concluded; the Shutting up of the *Exchequer*; the Injunctions against the *Bankers*; the Entrenching upon the *Common*'s *Right* of filling up their Vacancies; nor consequently, in the other Link of this Chain and Contrivance, the *Project* of *Indulgence*; [Tho, to give him his Due, he was for steadily pursuing Resolutions, when once taken; as knowing, that to do otherwise, were to lessen our Power, and make us Contemptible at Home and Abroad.] But, on the *Other side*, He made it his Business to free the People from their Fatal Longings after a *Common-wealth*, to which the Contagion of the Late Times had enslav'd them; with what Success, will easily appear, when we consider how much the Reverence due to *Majesty* is impair'd, and *Anti-monarchical Principles* are spread within these Seven Years, since (upon some Mis-conceiv-

ved, Popular Jealousies) he declin'd the Influence he had upon the State, by his Great Employments: and likewise, to Reward and Prefer such brave Souls, as had signaliz'd their Loyalty to His Father or Brother, in the Disorder of Their Affairs, and were profess'd Enemies to all that (upon the Specious Pretences of Securing the *Peoples Liberties*) sought to involve us in Fresh Troubles: He hath maintain'd Correspondence with Forreign *Princes*, by His *Majesty*'s Approbation, for Securing the Well-fare of the Nation; and Endeavour'd also to draw them into Allyances with us, to Oppose the *French* particularly, or all other Enemies that should any way seek to Prejudice our *Legal Establishments*; as his Secret *Counsels*, and *Letters* sent, with the *King*'s Allowance, to our several *Ambassadors* abroad, (and yet to be seen) do uncontroulably Demonstrate: And namely, the *Tripple-League* (which was the best Conjunction, that ever the *King* Enter'd into) was of His Advising;

To

To check the Torrent of the *French* Successes, by creating them Work at Home, he also Forwarded all he could an *Allyance*, (Proposed by a *French* Gentleman, (Mr. *Rohux*) to His *Majesty*) *For the Securing of Forreign Protestants*; which would (in all probability) have come to a Happy Issue, had not Mr. *de Verax* (who, after the Insurrection in the *Vivarets*, Fled hither, and Rid sometime in the *Guard*) made Sale of the *Secret*, the *Safety* of his *Friend*, (for tho, upon Notice of the *Treachery*, Mr. *Rohux* Retired into *Switzer-land*, yet a Party of *French Horse* soon Apprehended him There, and Convey'd him to the *Bastile*; where, after a short Imprisonment, he was Broken upon the Wheel) and the *Protestant Religion*, in That Kingdom, all at once, to Mr. *Rovigny* (the *French-Leiger* here) for *Two Hundred Pistols*; and no longer since than This *Summer*, at *Windsor*, he Facilitated the *Treaty of Allyance* Made between *This*, and the Crown of *Spain*, for the Common Security of Both Nations, against

all

all Enemies whatsoever, and to the inexpressible Advantage of our *Merchants* in *That* Country, and all other Parts of the *Spanish Dominions*: Tho it was against His Will, (as I have said before) that the *Dutch Wars* were Commenc'd; yet, the Resolution being taken by Those whose *will is a Law*, in Sheathing or Unsheathing the Sword of the Subject, He Valiantly, and for the Glory of the *English* Nation, in the *First*, with many Thousands of their Souldiers and Sea-men, Sunk a great Part of their *Fleet*, Blew up their *Admiral*, and with *Him* the very Reputation of their Naval Power, (thought before Invincible) and, by Sacking *Sheveling*, made Proud *Amsterdam* Tremble; for which great Services, as *England* shall ever be indebted, so, the *Parliament* then Sitting, were pleas'd to *Vote* him a *Hundred Thousand Pound*, as a Small Acknowledgment of *His* Merit, and *Their* Affections; and *London*, and all other Places, entertain'd Him with Acclamations of Joy: Nor did he less

deserve

deserve the Hatred of his Enemies, and Love of his Country, in the *Last War*; in which (notwithstanding the Disadvantages of *Wind* and *Tyde*, a *Thick Mist*, and his being at *Anchor*, when Set upon; yet) he Behav'd Himself with that Gallantry, that *De Ruyter* was forc'd to own *Us* Invincible, and that His *R. H.* exceeded all the *Admirals* in *Christendom*, as much in *Bravery*, as in *Birth*; as having, in the Heat of the Engagement, (when Re-fitting would lose the Benefit of his Orders and Action) chang'd *Ships* oftener than Great *Generals* at Land do their Horses: Neither must it be forgot, that in *Both Wars*, the Change of *Admirals* alter'd the Success: when the Late Expedition into *Flanders* was thought really design'd against the *French*, he put all his Equipage into a Readyness, and vow'd to Retrieve the Reputation of *England* by Death or Conquest; but a Great Man (*Then* at the *Helm*, but *Now* in the *Hold*) thought fit to Advise another *General*; which occasion'd That

Impos-

Imposition of *Peace*, under which all the *States* of *Christendom* do more or less feel the heavy Pressures of the *French* Insolence; whereas, had not that Unhappy Stop been put to the *Parliament*'s Proceedings, and the *Duke*'s Resolutions, *Europe* would (in all probability) have had sufficient Ground to hope for a Restauration, in a few Years, to her Pristine Tranquility: The *King* wanting Money for the Defending of *Tangier*, His *Highness*, rather than so Important a Place for the Trade of the *Streights*, should fall into the Hands of the *Moors*, and perhaps by Them be Deliver'd up to *worse Enemies*, Generously Disburs'd a very Considerable Sum of Money for its Preservation; thereby demonstrating how Sollicitous he is for the *Weal* of *England*, even at a Time when ———. In *Brief*, and to *Crown* all: Hearing of a *New Project* for the Giving of the *King Six Hundred Thousand Pounds*, upon Condition of His Consenting to the *Bill of Exclusion*, Allowing of a *New-Sett* of

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Ministers, &c. I am Credibly inform'd he wrote to His *Majesty* to This Effect: That *if He could be Secure His* Parliament *would Agree with* Him, *upon Quitting* His *Interest*, *He should not longer struggle for* Him, *who would not only hazard His* Uncertain *Hopes of a* Crown, *but frankly Expose His Life also, to do Him Service; whose Long Reign and Happyness*, (*notwithstanding all the Forgeries of His Enemies*) *he as heartily wish'd* (he said,) *as any other the most Loyal Subject in His Dominions.*

Now all *This*, being clear and undoubted *Matter of Fact*; I submit it to be judg'd how far His *R. H.* has all along been from attempting *to alter the* Limited Monarchy *into a* Despotick Rule.

LET. *And combining with the Papists in all the parts of the Late* Plot, *make him liable to an* Ax, *while he is aspiring to a* Scepter.

ANS. There is not a True Word in all this; for it was the *Duke* himself,

self, who [When Father *Bedingfield* brought him the treasonable Letters concerning the *Plot* and told him (falsly enough, no doubt of it) there was mischief design'd to his *R. H.* in particular, or to *Himself*, or the *Papists* in general for that the Enclosed Letters were forg'd, and one of them from a Person (Dr. *Fogarthy*) whose very name he never so much as heard of before] immediately shewed the *Packet* to the King, that so the Conspirators and Papers might be Seiz'd, and the Truth sifted out; and His Majesty, looking upon One of the Letters, said, He had seen the Hand before; and gave such little Heed to the Contents of them; that my Lord *Danby* (in *His Case*) Assures us, the *Plot* had never been brought upon the *Stage*; but for the *Duke's* Importunity: Nay further, some eight Dayes after This, Sir *Edmondbury Godfrey* sent, by *Coleman*, the Whole *Discovery*; with which the *Duke* a second Time acquainted the *King*, who yet spake not any thing to him of

the

the Matter. So that, if to Theſe certain *Particulars* we ſub-joyn, that Mr. *Oates*, and Capt. *Bedlow*, (the Two *Poles*, on which the whole Frame of the Plot has its Motion and Circumgiration) and all the *King*'s *Witneſſes* have Unanimouſly, both in *Print* and *Diſcourſe*, acquitted Him from being Privy, or Conſenting to, or Co-operating in any Part of that *Helliſh Conſpiracy*; as by their ſeveral *Depoſitions*, the *Journals* of Both Houſes of *Parliament*, and the *Teſtimonies* of ſundry Perſons of *Honour*, may (at any time) be made fully to appear: His *Innocence*, and *Abhorrence* of ſuch *Villanies*, muſt (on all Sides) be granted Unqueſtionable. And indeed, every one that knows him, will readily allow him to be naturally Incapable of any ſuch Baſeneſſes: For the *Engliſh*, *Scotch*, and *Iriſh*, the *French*, *Spaniards*, *Flemmings*, and *Dutch*, the *German*, *Swede*, and *Dane*, have Seen and Felt his *Bravery*, to their *Honour*, *Coſt*, and *Envy*; and are able to Witneſs, that He is a *Prince* not only

of an Innate Courage, Fearless, and Intrepid as a *Lyon*; but a *Commander* of great Experience both at *Land* and *Sea*, of a truly *Martial* Temper; Patient of Cold, Heat, Hunger, Thirst, and all the Toyls and Fatigues incident to War; Spritely, but not Rash; Wary and Secure in his Conduct, and still Fortunate and Successful in the Events of his Battles and Engagements; of ripe Wisdom, ready Apprehension, singular Industry and Application to Busʼness; mature in Council, quick in Execution, and inflexible in his Resolutions, whilʼst suitable to the *True Interest* of the Publick; of a Noble Presence, Affable Behaviour, with a Mixture of Pleasantness in his Words and Actions, that wins powerfully upon all that hear him; and, in Discourse, Solid and Pertinent, but voyd of Flourish, and empty Ostentation of Wit: He is, in all things, Temperate and Sober; in his Dealings between Man and Man, nicely Just; in his Word and Promises strictly Faithful, and

religi-

religiouſly Punctual; Sincere in his Friendſhips and Profeſſions; a Kind Brother, & a Dutyful Subject; an Obliging Husband, and an Excellent Maſter; Brave and Generous; Liberal, but not Profuſe; Reſolute, but not Stubborn; Great, but not Proud; Humble, but not Abject; not of a Narrow, Perſecuting Spirit; ſo much in Love with his *Own*, as to deſpiſe the Opinions of all *Others*; or deſirous of any Liberties, that he would not Grant; in *All* his Actions ſhewing Himſelf a *Gentleman*, but in *None* forgetting that He is a *Prince*. In a *word*, He is what the *French* call **Un Honeſt Homme**, which ſignifies a Perſon compoſed of all the Good Qualities that make Men truly Valuable: And tho, as *Fleſh* and *Blood*, he cannot be free from Paſſions, and Human Frailties; yet, in the World perhaps, there are not many *Princes* to be found with fewer; being doubly Related to *Henry* the *Great*, by his *Birth*, and by his *Sufferings*.

A Notable *Mercurialist*, in a late Extravagant *Paradox*, has taken a great deal of Pains to make out, that His *Royal Highness* is the *Worse* for being *Better*; but he that has made *God* Himself the *Author* of *Sin*, brought Him into a *Plot* against the *People*, and averr'd Him to have *Predestinated* This Land to *Destruction*, may be allow'd to Treat his *Fellow-Creatures* a little Coursely: Nor indeed, is it much to be wonder'd at, that, as a Weak and Diseased *Stomack* nauseats even the best *Restorative*; so our *Nation*, amidst the Confusions and Distractions, that the *Fear* of Losing its *Liberty* (originally instill'd by such *Incendiaries* as This) has put it into, should dread none so much as Him, who, of all Men living, is the most Passionate Lover of his *Country*, and the best Able and Willing, were He a *King*, to Protect and Defend it.

SECT.

SECT. X.

LET. EIghthly; *A more Unaccountable Thing yet than all the Former, is, To see the* King *so far concern Himself, in having the* Succession *Declared and Determined: For, it is not usual to find a* Prince *appear in Favour of a* Brother, *when so many are in the Belief, that He hath a* Legitimate Son *of His Own. Many* Kings *have Endeavour'd the Advancement of their* Bastard *Children, to the Exclusion of their nearest Relations of the Right Blood; Only* **Charles the Second**, *will be the* First *on the File of History, that, when nothing but His bare Word was needful to the Settling His Dominions on His* Son, *as* Legitimately *Born; He alone, and in the Face of Strong Suspicions to the contrary, would insinuate him to be only His* Natural Son; *and for no other Reason, but that He would Gratify*

His greateſt Enemies. I'm ſure, we read of few Kings, *that ever gave any great Countenance to their Brethren, when they were their* Preſumptive Heirs; *tho, in the mean time, they would not deprive them of their Legal Rights, providing they came to Out-live Them.*

ANS. The Force of This *Argument* comes not up to the Drift of it; for it byaſſes thus; Becauſe there have been Barbarous and Unnatural *Princes* in the World, therefore it is Unaccountable, why **Charles the Second** ſhould pretend to *Humanity:* And, becauſe the *Turkiſh Policy* ſtill waſhes the Grand *Seignior* away to the Throne, with the Blood of all his Brethren; therefore, **Our King** ought not to ſpare, or at leaſt not to indulge *His.* Now, What does he, Hereby, but ſtrive to Reproach and Poiſon the Fountain of all our Comforts, the Unparallel'd *Juſtice* and *Clemency* of our **Gracious Sovereign**; a *Clemency*, that has exceeded the Standard of all Ages ſince the Creation, and to which

which even this *Man of Face* himſelf, ſtands at this inſtant indebted for the very Ayr he breaths? What does he but, as much as in Him lyes, violate the Bonds and Dictates of *Society* and *Good Nature*, place us in a worſe Condition than the very Beaſts, and run us back again into Mr. *Hobb*'s Original State of War; by advancing in every Man, by ſo palpable an *Innuendo*, a Common Diffidence of his Neighbour? This being only a *Counter-part* of That Matchleſs piece of *State-Quackery*, the **Appeal**, (it dropt from the ſelf-ſame *Quill* too) which labours to prove our beſt Friends, and neareſt Relations, to be more Dangerous, than our Profeſs'd Enemies. Now, if this Doctrine hold good, it will, however, acquit His *Majeſty*, in *Gratifying* (as he villanouſly aſſerts) *His greateſt Enemies*. But, Was ſuch then the only Reaſon that induc'd Him to refuſe His *Royal Word*, in Confirmation of ſo Impious a *Forgery*? Or, Did He not rather find Himſelf oblig'd to That Refuſal, in Caſe He

would be True to His *Own*, and His *Family*'s Honour and Intereſt? Why ſhould He be thought to have ſo ſoon forgot the Quality and Diſpoſition of This Brat's *Foſter-Father?* Or the Conſequences of the *Sheeps* Baniſhing their *Dogs*, upon a League made with the *Wolves*, in the *Apologue*; Of Cardinal *Wolſey*'s Pulling down Two or Three *Monaſteries*, to Erect a *Colledge* with the Matterials; Of *Henry the Sixth*'s Conſenting to the Deſtruction of his *Uncle*, the Good *Duke of Gloceſter*; Of the *Protector*'s Removing his *Brother* (the *Admiral*,) in *Edward the Sixth*'s Time; The Murther of His moſt **Proteſtant Father**, upon Account of *Popery*; The Late *Tryal* of a *Holy Brother*, for ſaying, *The* Duke *was a Papiſt, and the* King *little better*; Or, in a word, that the *Church-Men*, and all the *Biſhops* (but *Two*,) are generally Branded for *Papiſts in Maſquerade?* It was never yet imputed as a Fault in any of our *Monarchs*, to diſtruſt the Extraordinary Careſſes, and Sollicitouſneſs of a Reconciled Enemy,

my, for their Safety; or to ſuſpect that their Subjects intended more than they diſcover'd, when once they came to inſiſt upon things Unneceſſary, or Unreaſonable, or contrary to their expreſs Command. But no Body will ſay, That Our Dayes furniſh ſuch Undutiful Inſtances; Nor do I either in This, or any Other Place, intend the leaſt Reflexion, but upon ſuch Particular Perſons only, as are bound in Gratitude to ſurceaſe meer Acts of Animoſity, tho clouded under a Publick Gulze, againſt their Generous Benefactors.

LET. *Yet, there are not many Ages paſt, ſince the* Heir Apparent's *being only Attended by a Greater Train, than the* King *then Reigning over theſe Kingdoms, uſed to be Accompanyed with, is thought to have given that Jealouſy to the* Father, *as Coſt the Young* Gentleman *his Life.*

ANS. If This be ſo; then *Brothers* are not the *Only Objects* of a *Princes*

ces Jealouſy: And indeed, the Temptation of a *Crown* does not work upon any Man either as a *Brother*, or a *Stranger*; but equally upon *Both*: and more or leſs, as the Perſon is more or leſs Conſcientious or Ambitious. So that, the Danger ariſes from the *Humour* of the Perſon, not from the *Relation*: Nay, and it preſſes ſtronger too, from a *Popular Faction*, that has no Right at all to a *Crown*, than from a *Legal Pretendent* upon a Claim of *Deſcent*; becauſe the *One* only waits his Time, according to the Courſe of Nature; whereas the *Other* preſſes to his Point by the wayes of Blood and Violence, as having no other Means to compaſs it. To what End then, was This Example produc'd, ſeeing it clearly makes againſt the Bus'neſs he aims at? Why, only to inſinuate, as if *King James* had Poiſon'd his Son: Which is a Suggeſtion, the moſt Falſe and Wicked that can be imagin'd; it being notorious, that Prince *Henry* Dy'd a Natural Death, (of a Feaver) and that his

his Father bore the Loſs of him with the utmoſt Impatience.

LET. *Surely, conſidering the preſent Poſture of Affairs, and the Obnoxiouſneſs of the* Papiſts *to the Law, for their many and continued Conſpiracies againſt His* Majeſty's *Perſon, and Lives of the People, the* Proteſtant Religion, *and the Peace and Safety of the Government; it were the* King *and Kingdom's Intereſt, to have the* D. *of* Y's Title (*as to his Succeeding to the* Crown) *to be left Undetermin'd and Doubtful. Nor can any thing ſo effectually Conduce both to the* King's *Own Security, and That of His* Proteſtant *Subjects, as to leave the* D. *of* Y. *under a Belief, That, ſhould the* King *be taken away, there is one ſtill behind, that can Diſpute the* Crown *with* Him. *Nor can the* D. *of* Y's *purſuing the Having the Right of* Succeſſion *at This time ſettled, intimate leſs to Conſidering Perſons, but that the* Papiſts *entertain New Deſigns againſt His* Majeſty's *Life; and that only they want ſuch a* Declaration,

tion, *for the hastening of the Execution of them.*

ANS. The *English* of This is, That the only way to secure the *King*'s Life, is to bequeath to His People the Legacy of a Civil War, at His Death. Which is an Admirable Project questionless! But the Substance of This again occurring, I shall Adjourn the further Discussion of it, to a more proper Place.

LET. *Your* Lordship *knows, that Queen* Elizabeth *would never positively name Her* Successor, *tho often Importun'd by* Parliament *so to do; for She very well understood, that if This had been once done, She should afterward Reign only by His Courtesy, and owe the Remnant of Her Life, and the Peace of the Government, to His Grace and Favour, whom She had Published for* Presumptive Heir.

ANS. That the Present Case holds little or no Proportion with That of Queen

Queen *Elizabeth*, is too plain to need a Demonſtration: And truly, I find the Proceedings of her time moſt groſly miſ-interpreted, and miſ-apply'd, upon ſundry accounts, meerly to ſerve the Turn of a *Deſigning Faction*: As for inſtance, The *Aſſociation* was nothing elſe but a *Court-Project*, or *Confederacy*, in Prejudice of the *Scottiſh Line*; and ſo far from being Univerſally accepted, that all the *Puritans* of Thoſe Dayes (which were the ſame with Our True Proteſtants, alias Fanaticks) abſolutely refuſed to enter into it; and decry'd it as a *Popiſh* Contrivance to Exclude a *Proteſtant* Succeſſour; And indeed, ſuch was it underſtood to be, by the *Papiſts* themſelves; as appears by the Jeſuit *Doleman*'s Book in Juſtification of it. Nor was the ſame Leaven of *Puritaniſm* leſs Zealous in declaiming againſt the *Parliament's* Power to divert or alter the *Succeſſion*, when they ſaw the Houſe of *Commons* at the Queens Devotion, and leſs Friends to King *James*'s Pretenſions, than to thoſe of a *Papiſt*: As

is

is clear from Mr. *Wentworth*'s Treatises, pen'd expressly to prove such an *Act* wholly *Illegal*, and of no Force: Tho now we see the Tide strangely turn'd, and who but *these Mungrel-Protestants*, Now, to contradict the *Brother-hood* Then, in all these Particulars; and to apply the self-same Engines to the *plucking-down* of *Popery*, that the Other lookt upon as originally excogitated to *Raise* it. But to come to the matter. This *Queen* did not refuse to declare her *Successor*; only she would not suffer the *Parliament* any way to harp upon That string: And when, upon her Death-bed, she was Ask'd her Will in the Case, *Who should Succeed* (said she) *but the King of Scots?* Wondring (as *Cambden* writes) that any body should Doubt, or be Ignorant of *His* Right. Nor is it less True, that she was a Woman of too much *Spirit* and *Bravery*, to forbear such a *Manifest*, purely upon the Abject and Ignoble Motives that are here pretended.

LET. *And truly, the King's falling*

so

ſo immediately Ill, after the D. *of* Y. *had ſo earneſtly ſolicited for a Formal* Declaration *of his being* Next Heir *to the Crown, occaſioned ſome mens grounds of Fear, that his Diſpatch is not only Reſolv'd, but the Springs and Cauſes of it diſpoſed before; and that, all things being Ripe, This was meerly contriv'd to facilitate the* Duke's *Enterance upon the Government. In* Brief; *matters are arrived at That Paſs, that the* Papiſts *cannot ſuffer the King to continue, and the* Duke *and They long eſcape the demerit of their Actions: For, as his Majeſty cannot ſubſiſt, nor preſerve the Reputation of his Crown and Government many Months longer without a* Parliament; *no more can They, through the Number, Quality, and Palpableneſs of their Crimes, bear one. So that the neceſſity of their Affaires, as well as their Inclinations, ſeconded by their Principles, oblige them, by one means or another, to Remove* Him: *wherein, if they Succeed, (as I ſee no rational foundation of judging but that they will) there is nothing remains towards the Preſerving Our Religion,*

Lives

Lives and Liberties, but to endeavour according to the Vote *and* Resolve *of the Last* Parliament, *to* Revenge his Death upon the Papists. *'Tis true; the King would not be prevail'd upon by any Importunities (tho frequently made by the* D. *at the* Board, *on* Wednesday *last) to Order a* Council-Table Declaration, *in favour of* York's *Right to Succeed, in case his Majesty should Die before Him: Yet the business would appear to be so far gone, and all things so dispos'd already, in prospect of what they intend; that they cannot, without hazarding their whole Concernments, recal themselves from the Purpose of Murthering* Him. *Yea, the King's not gratifying the Duke, in his so often repeated Suit; will now serve only to possess them with Apprehensions of Jealousy, and make them accelerate, rather than delay the Wickedness. 'Tis possible they may foresee that it will be accompany'd with greater hazards, than it would have been, could they have compassed That business: But they are gone past Retreat, and must either Perish by the Sword of* Justice, *or seek to protect*

test Themselves, by Destroying the King. And tho this failure give them greater Apprehensions, that they must seek their Safety by Recourse to Force, then there would have been cause for, had the Duke obtained such a Declaration; yet, men in their Circumstances, and where there is no Medium, will chuse rather to venture the being Slain in the Field, than Hang'd on a Gibbet, or to have their Heads cut off upon a Block.

ANS. Before I launch forth into a Particular Examination of the respective Branches of this Diabolical Gallimaufry; due Order requires a Prefixing of the Declaration (here so often mentioned) which was in the Form ensuing.

Charles R.

WE cannnot but take Notice of the great Industry & Malice, wherewith some Men of a Seditious and Restless Spirit, do spread abroad a most false and scandalous Report of a Marriage, or Contract of Marriage, supposed to be had and made between Us, and one

Msr. *Walters*, alias *Barlow*, now Deceased, Mother of the present Duke of *Monmouth*, aiming thereby to fill the Minds of Our Loving Subjects with Doubts and Fears, and if possible, to divide them into Parties and Factions, and as much as in them lies, to bring into Question the clear undoubted Right of our True and Lawful Heirs and Successors to the Crown. We have therefore thought Our Self obliged to let Our Loving Subjects see what Steps We (out of Our Care of Them, and their Posterity) have already made, in order to obviate the ill Consequences that so Dangerous and Malicious a Report may have, in future Times, upon the Peace of Our Kingdoms.

In *January* last was Twelve-month, We made a Declaration written with Our Own Hand, in these Words following.

THere being a False and Malicious Report industriously spread abroad by some, who who are neither Friends to Me, or the Duke of Monmouth, *as if I should have been either Contracted, or Married to his Mother; and though I am most Confident, that this Idle Story cannot have any Effect in this Age; yet I thought it my Duty, in Relation to the True Succession of This* Crown, *and that Future Ages may not have any Pretence to give Disturbance*

upon

upon that Score, or any other of This Nature, to Declare, as I do here declare in the Presence of Almighty God, *That I never was Marryed, or gave any Contract to any Woman whatsoever, but to my Wife Queen* Catherine, *to whom I am now Marryed. In Witness whereof, I set My Hand, at* White-Hall, *the Sixth of* January, 1679.

CHARLES R.

And This *Declaration* I make in the Presence of

W. Cant. *H. Coventry.*
H. Finch, C. *J. Williamson.*

TO strengthen This *Declaration*, We did in *March* following (which was *March* last was Twelve-month) make a more Publick *Declaration* in Our *Privy-Council*, written likewise with Our Own Hand; and having caused a true Transcript thereof to be Entred in Our Council-Books, We Signed it, and caused the Lords of Our *Privy-Council*, then attending Us in *Council*, to Subscribe the same likewise, and We Ordered the Original to be kept in the Council-Chest, where it now remains. The Entry whereof, in the Council-Book, is in these Words following:

At the Court of *White-hall*, *March* 3d. 1679.

Present

The KING'S Most Excellent Majesty

Lord Chancellor	Earl of *Essex*
Lord Treasurer	Earl of *Bathe*
Duke of *Lauderdale*	Earl of *Craven*
Marquess of *Worcester*	Earl of *Aylesbury*
Earl of *Ossory*	L. Bishop of *London*
Lord *Chamberlain*	L. Bishop of *Durham*
Earl of *Sunderland*	Lord *Maynard*
Earl of *Clarendon*	Mr. *Vice-Chamberlain.*

HIS Majesty was This Day pleased to Command, That the *Declaration* hereafter following, be Entred into the Council-Book, it being all Written and Signed by His Majesty's Own Hand, in a Paper which His Majesty this Day delivered at the *Board*, to be kept in the Council-Chest; *viz.*

FFor the *Avoiding of any Dispute, which may happen in the Time to come, concerning the* Succession *of the* Crown, *I do here Declare in the Presence of Almighty* God, *That I never gave nor made any Contract of Marriage; nor was Married to any Woman whatsoever, but to My present Wife Queen* Catherine, *now Living.* White-Hall, *the Third Day of* March, 1679.

CHARLES R.

His

His *Majesty* Commanded Us who were present at the Making and Signing this *Declaration*, to Attest the same.

Finch, C.	*Essex*
Danby	*Bathe*
Lauderdale	*Craven*
Worcester	*Aylesbury*
Ossory	*H. London*
Arlington	*N. Durham*
Sunderland	*W. Maynard*
Clarendon	*G. Garteret.*

IN *April* last, We found the same Rumour not only Revived again, but also Improved with New Additions; to wit, It was given out, That there was a Writing yet extant, and lately produced before several Persons, whereby the said Marriage, or a Contract at least, (for the Report was various) would appear; and that there are several Lords and Others, yet living, who were pretended to have been present at the said Marriage. We knew full well, that it was impossible, that any thing of This should be True; (there being nothing more groundless and false, than that there was any such Marriage or Contract between Us, and the said Mrs. *Walters*, alias *Barlow*) yet We proceeded to call before Us, and caused to be Interrogated in *Council*, such Lords, and o-

ther Persons, as the Common Rumour did surmize to have been present at the pretended Marriage, or to know something of it, or of the said Writing. And though it appeared to all our Council, upon the Hearing of the said *Lords*, and other Persons Interrogated, and upon their Denying to have been present at any such Marriage, or to know any thing of it, or of any such Writing, That the Raising and Spreading of such a Report, so incoherent in the several Parts of it, was the Effect of deep Malice in some few, and of loose and idle Discourse in others; Yet We think it requisite at this time, to make Our Declarations above-recited more Publick; and to Order the same (as We do hereby with the Advice of Our *Privy-Council*) to be forth-with Printed and Published. And We do again upon This Occasion, call Almighty God to Witness, and Declare upon the Faith of a Christian, and the Word of a King, That there was never any Marriage, or Contract of Marriage, had or made between Us, and the said Mrs. *Walters*, alias *Barlow*, the Duke of *Monmouth*'s Mother, nor between Us, and any Woman whatsoever, Our Royal Consort Queen *Catherine*, that now is, only excepted.

And We do hereby strictly Require and Command all Our Subjects whatsoever, That they presume not to Utter or Publish any

thing

thing contrary to the Tenor of This Our *Declaration*, at their Peril, and upon Pain of being Proceeded against according to the utmost Severity and Rigour of the Law.

Given at Our Court at White-Hall, *the Second Day of* June, *in the Two and Thirtyeth Year of Our Reign.*

On the *Fifteenth* of the same Month of *June*, the *Atturney General*, by the King's Command, moved, in *Chancery*, That these *Declarations* might be Enroll'd, and made a Record of That Court, for the preservation of them; in Order whereunto, the *Lords* and Others of the Privy Council, (who were present at the Making and Signing of them, and now in *Court*) being desired to *Attest* the same, they did it upon their Oaths, as did likewise the *Clerks* of the Council; and so, (as I have hinted before) they were then Enroll'd accordingly. Now, tho This Authentical Paper, nay, and even Time it self, has absolutely blunted the Edge, and expos'd the Drift of These Audacious *Sophistries*; Yet I

ſhall reſume, and briefly run over the moſt material Heads of the *Paragraph*, in order as they lie. *Firſt* then, The *Papiſt*'s being obnoxious to the Law, will hardly juſtify our beating of one anothers Brains out. And did himſelf believe (as he pretends) either that the leaving of the Succeſſion *Doubtful*, were the moſt effectual means to ſecure the King, or that the *Duke* has any Deſignes upon his Brother; How could he Anſwer for the Publication of ſo Important a Secret? Thereby, what in him lyes, Accelerating that Fatal Blow, that he would be thought to Shield. But His *Majeſty*'s Safety (*God* be thanked!) depends not upon any ſuch Fallacious Project; an *Almighty Hand*, and a *Stretched-out Arm*, being ſtill His Protector and Defender; againſt all the Practices of Falſe Friends, or Open Enemies. *Secondly*, As to Queen *Elizabeth*'s not Declaring the *Succeſſion*; I ſhall add, to what I have ſaid already, Part of Her Speech to *Metland*, (the *Scottiſh* Ambaſſador) in the *Third* Year of

of Her Reign; which may be found in *Buchanan*, (*Lib.* 17.) and ſome of our own *Chronicles*: *If it ſhall pleaſe* God *to call Me*; (ſayes the *Queen*) *yet your* Queen *ſhall never find, that I have done any thing, which may Hurt or Impair that Right, which She Claimeth to the Kingdom of* England, *in any Sort. And I call* God (*the Hearer of this our Diſcourſe*) *to Witneſs, that I know none, next to My Self, whom I can Prefer before Her*; *or, if the Matter ſhould come into Controverſy, that can Debar Her. You know what the Competitors are: Upon what Confidence or Power can thoſe Simple Things attempt ſo high a Matter? And I do highly Commend the Wiſdom of your Noble-Men, that would both provide Providently for their Own Safety, and avoyd (by all Means) the Effuſion of* Chriſtian Blood; *which, I confeſs, could not be ſaved, if any* Faction *ſhould Oppoſe it ſelf in the* Claim *of the* Kingdom. *But, where is That* Faction? *Or, by what confidence of any Power can it preſume ſo to do? &c.* Nor is it unknown, how

how severely she handed M. *Thornton* (Reader of *Lincolns-Inn*) for presuming in his Readings, to Reflect upon the *Scotch*-Queens Title. *Thirdly*, This is only a general Scandal improv'd into a Particular Instance; for, every body knows, that such His Majesties Distemper, was as natural, as His Recovery is unquestionable. And *Lastly*, In his following way of Reasoning, under the Countenance of proving it to be the Papists Intereſt to Murther the King, What does he less, than all he can in the world, to possess them with the Necessity of doing it; and consequently to force them upon it. *Chuse rather to venture the being Slain in the Field* (sayes he) *than Hang'd upon a Gibbet.* Were not this Libel almost as publick as a News-book, and his Propositions erected upon a False Bottom, I should not have dar'd to speak his Words after him. His first *Argument* runs Thus, *The King cannot long be without a* Parliament, *nor the Papists bear one; so that, as well upon Necessity, as Inclination and Principle, they will*

Re-

Remove Him. The One half of This ſpoken in a Corner, to a knot of Prieſts and Jeſuits, and fairly prov'd upon a man, would be as much as his Head is worth. And is the Crime ever the Leſs, for doing the ſame thing in Publick, where the Provocation is Stronger? Theſe Diſcourſes are not to paſs for ſimple Declarations of a man's *Opinion*; but Artificial Encouragements rather, and Adviſes for the **Doing** of the Thing; eſpecially, if one conſider the *Pen* they come from, and the *Conſequences*: For a *Parliament* has been Call'd, the *Papiſts* have Suffer'd, and the KING is yet (and may He long continue) **In Safety.** And in Truth, what does he leſs, by urging that *Vote* of the laſt Houſe of Commons but one, than labour to Incite ſome or other deſperate *Enthuſiaſt* (for there are *Feltons*, *Poltrots*, and *Dandelots*, as well as *Clements*) to do the Deed; that ſo his intented *Butcheries* may take place? His *Other* Argument is drawn from the Papiſt's far Advancement in their Plots upon his Majeſties Perſon, and

from

from His refusing the Duke a *Council-Table Declaration* in favour of his Right to Succeed. By the *First* Branch of it, he fairly intimates the Extraordinary Trust that is Reposed in Him by the Jesuits, to whom he would be thought to be a great Privade: And for the *Other*, it is (as I noted before) the Cardinal Hinge, that Supports the whole *Fabrick*; which necessarily stands or falls with it. Now the *Manifest* (above) wholly destroyes this Pretext; for it presents a *Declaration*, of the self-same purport with the Other, made long before any thing of the Plot was so much as heard of: And therefore this *Latter* was only a Repetition of the same Act, and altogether unnecessary, and unprofitable, as to the *Papists*. Nor is there any thing more False, than that the *Duke* ever Importun'd, or the *King* Deny'd, the making of any such *Declaration*; so far were all these *Items* of Terrour and Dissuasion from Affecting in the least, a *PRINCE* so Just, and Magnanimous, tho Calculated expresly for

that

that very purpoſe. But why This worſe than Aſtrological Determination upon the KING's **Fate** to the **Multitude**? But that it was his Deſigne to Teaze and Chafe the Rabble into Rage, and diſpoſe and prepare them to entertain any Occaſion for **Uproar** and **Tumult**; and, when their Bloud ſhould be up againſt the Contrivers of this **Helliſh Plot**, to *Miſdirect* the Raſh and Outragious Humour: It being clear, as well from the *Declaration* it ſelf, as from his own *Pen*, that ſince nothing but Bloud would do his Buſineſs, he had reſolv'd if poſſible, to Effect the wayes of it. But it may be worthy the Note of all ſuch **Miſcreants**, that the Word of GOD is Expreſs, that *The Bloud-Thirſty ſhall not Live out Half their Dayes.*

SECT.

SECT. XI.

LET. NInethly; *As I know not who dare Proclaim the* Duke of York, *should the* King *depart this Life before him, seeing the* House of Commons, *in a* Bill *Twice Read, and Pass'd, have made it not only* Capital, *but* Treasonable *to do it: So, if my Information do not greatly deceive me, the* Duke of Monmouth, *before he was Taken from his Mother in* Holland, *and Carryed to* Paris, *went for, and was acknowledged as* Prince of Wales: *And consequently, to undermine This Title, if, in the Issue, he should prove so, is not less than* Treason *by the* Statute. *And your* Honour *knows, that tho the* King's Affirmative *might be of some Significancy, toward the* Declaration *of his* Legitimacy, *and Corroboration of his Right to the* Imperial Crown; *yet his* Negative *imports just Nothing, when Confron-*

fronted with Positive Evidence to the Contrary.

ANS. Would it do him any Good, I might have told him of a *New-Moulded Bill* of the same Tenour, in a *New House of Commons*, that was *Thrice* Read and Committed, and sent up to the *Lords*, and There thrown out with some Indignation: But it will be more to the Purpose, to assure him, That we are not yet, nor ever are likely to be afraid, or stand in awe of an *Ordinance*; much less about to heed the Dictates of an *Abortive Bill*. As to his *Tale* about the *Prince of Wales*; since his own *Face* will not give it for other than an *Information*, & That a Suspicious One too; it may suffice to Object, That *Hear-Sayes* are no Evidence: And in truth, it is the most Ridiculous, Improbable, and Uncircumstantiated, in the whole *Legend*. But to come to his *Issue*; If he has not sufficiently proved his *Point*, (as I'm sure, he's yet far enough from it) the very *Statute* he produces in

Favour

Favour of the True Heir, has bequeath'd his *Four Quarters* to the *Four Gates* of the *City*. And *Lastly*, When *Positive Evidence* appears, I'le tell him more of my Mind: In the meanwhile, he would do well to give some Reason why the *King*'s *Affirmative* should do Good, and yet His *Negative* be incapable of doing Hurt. If there be any that will not take their *Prince*'s Word, in this Case, they may justly despair of a Conviction by any other Means, than the Voyce of an *Angel* from *Heaven*: And they are wish't to have Patience till then.

SCET. XII.

LET. LAstly; *whereas the* Partisans *and* Parasites *of the* D. *of* Y. *would have it judg'd a great Reproach upon the* King, *that ever He shou'd be thought to have Marry'd a Person of so low a Quality, as Madam* Walters; *they*

they do but in That diſcover at once their ſmall Acquaintance with Hiſtory, *and either their Want of Memory, or Ingenuity, in what concerns his* R. H. *Your* Lordſhip *doth very well know, that* Edw. 4. *(tho Actually in the Throne, and withal a Magnanimous and Victorious* Prince, *yet) Marry'd an Ordinary Gentlewoman; and ſhe not only one of his own Subjects, but the Relict of a Former Husband, and the Widow of an Enemy to his* Crown *and* Family: *Whereas the* King, *when ſuppoſed to have Marry'd the* D. *of* M's *Mother, was Actually in Exile; the utmoſt of His Poſſeſſions lying in ſome faint Hopes, which His Right to the* Engliſh Crown *Adminiſtred unto Him.*

ANS. There is nothing in This, worth taking Notice of; for tho it ſhould all be granted, yet would it not make one Jot for Him, or in the leaſt prejudice the *Truth* I aſſert. Why did he not rather take up the Vulgar Reports upon This Occaſion; That *Mrs.* Walters *was indeed Marry'd to the* King,

but not by Consent of Parliament; *neither* (*as not any Forreigner*) *did she Enrich the Land with a Joynture; and therefore her Children could not Inherit.* These, now, are *Insinuations* False; and equally Wild and Childish: For the Law takes Notice of no other Qualifications, than **Loyalty** and **Virtue**: Bare and Naked *Extraction*, is a Consideration also greatly below the Generosity of a *Royal Breast*: neither is it allow'd any Place, even in the Field of *Argument*.

Edward the Fourth did indeed Marry a *Private Woman*; and so did *Harry the Eighth*, several: Nor was there any Breach of *Law*, in the Act; for **Our Kings** are Free, in That Particular. But the Consequence of the *Match* was not over Fortunate to *Edward*, as *Chronicles* Witness; for it stript him of his *Crown*, and his *Country* too, for a Season; and had like to have depriv'd him of his Life, for altogether.

LET. *And as it is not improbable, but that*

that he found it neceſſary to Marry, rather than, by taking another Courſe, to Alienate the Minds of thoſe farther from Him, whoſe Love it was His Intereſt to Recover; ſo the Deplorableneſs of His Condition, at That Time, gave him ſmall Encouragement to demand in Marriage any that was the Daughter of a Neighbour King *or* Monarch. *Nor is it difficult to conceive how far the Wit, Beauty, and Ayre of ſuch a Lady as Madam* Walters *was, might prevail upon, and entangle a Young* Prince *Naturally Amorous, and alwayes an Admirer of ſuch Qualifications.*

ANS. He touches, with ſo little Concern, upon the *King*'s Exile; the hard Shifts that His *Majeſty* was ſometimes put to in it; and ſo ſlightly paſſes over the Villanies that cauſed them, even when a Juſt Occaſion (as *Here*) preſents it ſelf, to aggravate upon the Subject of thoſe *Traytor*'s Guilt; and the Calamitous Effects of a Rebellious Wantonneſs: that even Common Charity it ſelf cannot

admit of a Suppoſal, that He had the Honour of any Share at all in thoſe Glorious Sufferings; or that His Pulſe beats ſtronger toward an Abhorrence, than toward an Approbation, and Repetition of ſuch Helliſh Practices.

Now, as to the Politick Part of this *Little Finger* of a *Pretext*; it anſwers it ſelf: For an entire *Diſ-engagement*, a Liberty to *Ally* Himſelf where His Friendſhip and Affection ſhould, by a Courſe of Good Offices, be beſt Deſerv'd; was undoubtedly His only Intereſt. And he does not neither (I hope) give Mrs. W. *Beauty* and *Wit*, excluſively of all others: Wherefore, I can allow thoſe Qualifications to have won upon the *King* Then, becauſe they have done it Since too; tho all along, in a way quite different from that which he here pretends to ſtickle for. And then, His *Title* was too Juſt alſo, not to Authorize the *Demand* of a *Wife* (had His Inclinations ſo been) from any Neighbour *Prince*; Nor were His *Hopes* ever ſo Faint, or *Condition* Deplorable, as not to Promiſe Succeſs

Sinc

Since it cannot be forgot, that even a *Perkin Warbec*, a meer *Impostor*, found more Favour than That comes to, from a Wise and Valiant *Scottish King*. Nay, and *History* abounds in Instances of the like Quality.

LET. *Nay, My* Lord; *tho the* D. *of* Y. *hath been twice Marry'd, and when in much better Circumstances, than the* King *Then was; yet he hath no great Cause of bearing Himself upon the Antiquity, or Greatness of the* Families *into which he hath Match'd: For, I'm sure, neither of His* Dutchesses *derived their Descent from so Eminent a* Pedigree, *or of That Figure in* Heraldry, *as the* D. *of* M's *Mother proceeded from. They are great Strangers in* England, *who do not know, that her Father was a Gentleman of an Old* Brittish *Lineage, and stood Possess'd of a much Fairer Estate, than the late Lord Chancellor* Hide *was ever Born unto. And tho I will cast no Reflections upon his Acquisitions; yet This may be affirmed with Modesty, that he was more indebted for Them to the Fa-*

vour of his Prince, *than to any Extraordinary Merit in Himſelf, or Recommended by the Dignity and Services of his Anceſtors. And one would think, the Returns he made unto His* Majeſty, *in more than a Thouſand Inſtances, ſhould not render the* King *very fond of Transmitting the* Crown *to His Off-Spring.*

ANS. What if This were True? It is nothing at all to the Purpoſe yet; for it is not the *Pedigree*, but the *Virtue* that is in Queſtion. And again; Suppoſe the *Father* were not ſo Good as he ſhould have been: That ought not, in Juſtice, yet to operate to the Prejudice of his more Deſerving, or at leaſt more Innocent Off-Spring. But I find none more ready to ſhut up the Streams of His *Majeſty*'s Clemency from their Fellow-Subjects, than ſuch generally, as owe (not their *Eſtates* only to His *Bounty*, but) even their very *Heads* too, to His *Mercy*.

And it is not neither the bare *Excluſion* of his *R. H.* (it ſeems) that will ſatisfy; unleſs the *Whole Line* be Re-

duc'd

duc'd under the ſame Predicament. This is a very unlucky Slip! But properly enough plac'd here, (I confeſs) in regard the *End* ſhould Naturally follow the *Means*.

SECT. XIII.

LET. Mr Lord; *Having endeavoured to Obey you in* One *of your Commands; I ſhall, in the next Place, apply my ſelf to the Conſideration of your* Second: *And to eaſe your* Lordſhip *of all Unneceſſary and Superfluous Trouble, I ſhall not Entertain you with any long Character of Sir* Gilbert Gerard; *as preſuming, that That Gentleman is fully known unto you. All I ſhall therefore ſay concerning him, is, That he is ſtill the ſame, and of the ſame Principles he was, when he ſuffer'd ſo much for the* King, *in the late Times: That is, He is a Loyal Subject, a Good* Proteſtant, *and a True* Engliſh-Man; *One who will obey his*

Prince, *as far as Conscience, Law, and Honour, will allow him; but will Sacrifice none of These, neither upon Mercenary Terms, nor to avoyd Impendent Dangers. And, as it were Happy for the* King, *were all His Subjects of that Figure; so it would greatly redound to the Honour of the* Church of England, *to have all Her Members of That Complexion, and Temper.*

ANS. Here's a Prefatory *Panegyrick* hall'd in by Head and Shoulders, purely to reflect a General Scandal upon the *Church of England*, the *Sons* of it, the *Friends* of the *Government*, as by Law Establish'd, and His *Majesty*'s most *Loyal* & *Obedient Subjects*. Which is a very Ominous *Introduction*, truly; and sufficiently evidences to the Ingenuity of the *Sequel*. But in this Respect however, he is Worthy of some Commendation; that, where he has no Kindness, he chuses rather to express a frank *Disdain*, than a fawning *Complyance*: Neither is it to be expected, that Ill Will should so

soon

ſoon have forgot her pernicious Faculty of *Worſe Speaking*; and ſo no Good Men can ſuffer by any *Reproach*, no better qualify'd. And, in a Word, Sir *Gilbert Gerard* pretends to too great an Intereſt in the Dictates of *Honour*, *Loyalty*, and *Religion*; to thank any one for his Pains,, that ſhall attempt to Raiſe him I know not what perverſe Sort of *Reputation*, upon the Ruin of theſe Objects of his Love.

LET. *Nor ought his being put out of the* Commiſſion *of the* Peace, *be Conſtru'd as any Reflection upon him*; *ſeeing he hath ſo many Worthy and Deſerving Perſons, in all the Counties of* England, *Sharers with him in the ſame Fortune. What the Occaſion of That Treatment was, your* Lordſhip *fully underſtands, tho you were no way Intereſted in the Affair*; *and it is to be hop'd, that the* King *may in time, diſcover the Perniciouſneſs of thoſe Counſels, which have prevented His hearkening to the Humble Intreaties of many of His People, and have Influenc'd Him to diſoblige a great*

a great Number of His best Subjects. I'm sure, both His Majesty, *and the Kingdom do already sensibly suffer by it, while the Gentlemen themselves are only Discharg'd from a Burthen. There may possibly be some mean Souls, who covet being in the* Commission, *to obtain a Respect in their Country, or to make a Gain by their Office and Employment; but Sir* Gilbert, *with those other Gentlemen who are in the same Predicament with him, are Persons who (in their greatest Privacies) can command a Deference from all about them; and whom* God *hath bless'd both with Estates and Minds, that exalt them above the Temptations of* Fees *for Warrants, or* Gratuities *for Connivance at the Breach of His* Majesty's *Laws.*

ANS. This is only the *Second Part* to the *Same Tune*; and I produce the *Passage*, Chiefly to Recommend this *Infamous Libel* to the Hands of *Justice*; and not, from it, to take an Occasion to labour the wiping those supposed Spots off the Face of the *Sun*, that only

only a Weak and Malevolent Eye can ſpy in't. None but the Meaneſt of Mortals, would ever charge the Worſt Things upon the Beſt Men: And if the *Government* is ſenſibly touch'd by a Blow given to any *Member* of it; What an Inexpreſſible Reſentment muſt it needs have, of this Audacious *Box a'th' Ear* reach'd to it *Self?* In *ſhort*; Our Change, in the *Particular* he ſpeaks of, is manifeſtly from Worſe to Better: Nor is that Counſel aloof of Virtue and Prudence, that, when the Body Politick is *Hide-bound*, recommends a *Laxative* in place of a *Reſtringent*. This may ſuffice, for *My* Part: The Reſt I leave to the *Hang-Man*.

LET. *But, My* Lord; *That I may the better give you the* Hiſtory *of This* Tranſaction, (*or rather* Farce) *concerning Sir* Gilbert Gerard's *Appearing before the* Councel; *You may be pleas'd to know, that he was ſent for by a Letter under the Hand of my Lord* Sunderland, *requiring him to come up immediately,*

ately.. And because a Missive *by the* Post *might have too much Preserv'd the Priviledge of a Member of* Parliament, *and intimated too great a Respect to a Gentleman whose Brother had lost his Life for* Downing *His* Majesty's *Interest under* Oliver Cromwel, *and Himself undergone Costly and Severe Imprisonments; there was a Creature, Stiled a* Gentleman-Usher *Order'd to carry the Letter, and to bring him to* White-Hall.

ANS. I have not taken any fresh notice of such *Objections*, as were before *Answer'd*; and again Occur'd, in his Working up the *Narrative* to this Pitch. I have likewise pass'd over all those Suggestions, that tend not manifestly to Countenance the Pretext of the *D.* of *M*'s *Legitimacy*, (the *Principal* of the *Debate*) and the Calumnies upon the *Privy-Councel*, with as little Heed as they Deserv'd. And my *Replyes* upon This, and all that follows, shall be as Succinct too; the Matter of *Fact* being True, for the most part; when stript of the Partial

and

and Malicious *Gloſſes*, and *Expoſitions* of the *Relater*: *Gloſſes* ſo groſly and palpably Forc'd and Barbarous, that it would be an Affront even to the moſt *Dim-ſighted* Judgments, to waſte Paper in Pointing out, or Remarking upon them. So that, I ſhall only put on the way to his Account of the *Tranſaction*; preſent, afterward, the *Short* and *Truth* of it; and ſo make *An End.*

LET. *Now, tho Sir* Gilbert *was hardly Recover'd from a Fit of the* Stone, *and remain'd Confined, by Weakneſs, to his Chamber, when theſe* Blades *arrived at his Houſe; yet he immediately Comply'd with the Meſſage, and Addreſs'd himſelf to his Journey with all the Expedition he could; thereby teſtifying at once, his Obedience to His Majeſty, and the Security he enjoy'd in his own Mind, as to his Innocency, tho he knew not what he was ſent for. Being come to the* Court; *inſtead of meeting with my Lord* Sunderland, *there was an Order left for the Conducting him to Mr.* Coventry, *who was then the Other Secretary of State, tho he hath ſince Reſigned to Sir* Leonel Jenkins. *But whereas every Rational Man would have apprehended, that a Parliament-Man, being ſeiz'd, and brought*

ſo

ſo far Priſoner, within the time of Priviledge, would have been queſtion'd for no thing leſs than a PLOT *to Aſſaſſinate the* KING, *or a Conſpiracy of Levying War againſt the* Government; *yet, all he was Interrogated about, was, if the late Lord of* Durham *had at any time entruſted him with a* Black Box, *containing a Contract of Marriage between the* KING, *and the* Duke of Monmouth's *Mother? or, Whether he had ſeen any ſuch Contract? You may eaſily apprehend, that he was not a little ſurpriz'd, after all the Fatigue and Expenſe they had put him to, to find himſelf examin'd in Relation to ſo Ridiculous and Romantick a Story: However, being oblig'd to make a Civil Anſwer;* he told the Secretary, That he was neither intruſted with ſuch a Box, nor had ſo much as heard of ſuch a Contract. *Which Reply of Sir* Gilbert's *being Recorded in Writing, Mr.* Coventry *was pleas'd to tell him, (by what Warranty we may poſſibly know ſome other time)* That he was oblig'd both to Subſcribe it, and to Ratify it by an Oath. *Sir* Gilbert, *being more amazed than before, Replyed;* That as he little imagin'd, that he had been ſent for upon a Buſineſs of That Nature, ſeeing he knew no Reaſon why his Name ſhould be Intereſted in it; ſo he would neither ſet his Hand to the *Anſwer* he had given, or Take his Oath to Confirm it. *And*

indeed

indeed, he had Reaſon for what he ſaid; for, How could he know, but This might be a Leading Queſtion to ſome thing elſe? for whoſoever had invented That Fabulous Story, might, with as much Truth, and with more Senſe, have charg'd him with ſome Criminal Matter. Accordingly, inſtead of doing what was requir'd by Mr. Coventry, *he only ask't,* Whether he was ſent for thither, and taken into Cuſtody, as a *Criminal? To which the* Secretary *Return'd*; That he had no other Directions, than to ask him the foregoing Queſtions; *which he endeavour'd by many Arguments to have obtain'd his Reply unto, under Oath. But Sir* Gilbert *wholly declining to Swear, and repreſenting,* That he had come a long and tedious Journey, whereof he was weary; *deſired to know,* How he ſhould be Diſpoſed of? *Whereupon he was told,* That he might go to his Lodging, provided he would promiſe to Attend the *KING*, and *Council*, the *Monday* following. *Where, having, at the Time, made his Appearance, he was call'd in, after that the* Judges *had been there a Quarter of an Hour before him: And His Majeſty was pleaſed to tell him,* That he was not ſent for Thither, to be Charg'd with any Crime; but only to make Oath, whether the late Biſhop of *Durham* had not Conſign-

signed to him a Black Box, wherein was contained a Contract of Marriage betwixt His *Majesty*, and the *D.* of *M*s Mother? *To which, having Reply'd as before; and withal, excus'd himself from Taking any Oath in such Cases wherein the Law had not prescrib'd: There were many Arguments us'd to perswade him, and long Harrangues, representing the mischievous Consequences, which a* Doubtful Title *might occasion. But he, insisting upon the Right of an* English-man; *namely, That he might not be requir'd to Swear, but in such Cases as the Law had appointed; all the* Judges, *and (in Conjunction with Them) my Lord* Chancellor, *gave their Opinion, That he was obliged by the Law to Take his Oath, in a Matter of this great Moment, which threatned the Nation with no less, than what fell out betwixt the Houses of* York *and* Lancaster. *Which accordingly he did, to the Purport already intimated; Viz.* That he knew of no such thing as a Black Box, nor any thing relating to such a Contract of Marriage, as he was then Interrogated about. *Now, my* Lord, *I know not how a Gentleman could have carry'd it with more True Courage and Honour, than Sir* Gilbert *did; for as the Opinion of the* Judges *was to overrule Him, as to what was Law; so only a* Parliament *is capable of Judging whether they*

Acted

Acted consonantly to their Duty: And, till that Happy Hour come, I Commend your Lordship *to the Divine Protection; and am,*

London, May 15th. 1680. My Lord,

Your most Humble Servant, *&c.*

ANS. The *Sum* of that Proceeding was no other than This; That Sir *Gilbert*, being inform'd against upon the Premises, was Civilly sent for, Civilly came; was Civilly interrogated, Civilly and Satisfactorily answer'd; was Civilly us'd, and Civilly dismiss'd; the *Cheat* Detected, the *People* were Satisfy'd, and *All* Well.

And because he seems to make a Mockery of the *Contentions* betwixt the *Houses* of York and Lancaster; I cannot but recommend to Consideration, what Calamities this poor Kingdom sustain'd; what Butcheries, what Rapines were Here Committed, when no Forreign Assistance was in Place;

but only English Againſt English, Murthering and Deſtroying one another, in thoſe Inteſtine Wars! What Maſſacres! what Deſolations of Cities and Towns! what Bloody Battles enſu'd the *Diſ-inheriſon* of the Houſe of *York*, notwithſtanding the Solemn *Reſignation* of King *Richard the Second*, and all the *Acts* of *Parliament* to Eſtabliſh and Confirm it! That, during theſe Diſtractions, in the Space of *Sixty* Years, were *Seventeen* Pitch'd Battles Fought in This Kingdom; and no leſs than *Eight* Kings, and Princes of the Blood; *Forty* Dukes, Marqueſſes, and Earls; Barons, and Gentlemen, Innumerable; and *Two Hundred Thouſand* of the Common People, Slaughter'd and Deſtroy'd. And, Is not This, now, a fine Encouragement, think ye, to Embarque for a *Second Adventure*, upon the ſame Coaſts?

THE

THE CONCLUSION.

SECT. XIV.

I Am now got *Thorough*: And could willingly have *Here* dismiss'd my *Adversary*, and the *Reader*, Both together; had not the Iniquity of the Times, and the Dangerous Predominancy of *Obloquy* and *Malevolence*, which will not suffer even the most Loyal Words, and Innocent Thoughts, to pass Scot-free, forc'd me to press a little further upon the Patience of the *Latter*, and render'd

what follows, of Absolute Necessity; *Viz.* That I am a **Church-of-England-Man**, both upon Choyce and Education; never was, nor am likely to be Affected either to **Popery** or **Phanaticism**; no **Lozy, Courtier, Pensioner**; or ever Oblig'd by **King.** or **Duke,** in any Particular Grace and Favour; but wholly **Independent:** That what I have Written, is out of Pure Love for the Truth, Zeal for the Publick; to prevent those Calamities, which seem to do more than threaten this Unhappy and Distracted *Kingdom*; and from which, nothing but *God's* Good Providence, in the Wisdom and Moderation, Courage and Prudence of Our *King* and *Parliament*, is (I fear me) able to

De-

Defend it: And that those Evident *Truths*, which I have deliver'd in Relation to the *House of Commons*, cannot reasonably give any sort of *Offence*, at least if the *Occasion* be duely Consider'd; and that the Malice or Arrogance of my **Antagonist**, and sundry *Others*, has carry'd them so far, as to trample upon all the Positive and Fundamental Laws of the Land, by Publishing dayly in Print, (either *Directly* too, or by palpable *Implication*) to the manifest Hazard of the *State*, That *Monarchy* is not so much as *Jure Naturæ*, or Unalterable by Human Power, without apparent Violence; but *All Forms* of *Government* Changeable at the Will and Pleasure of the *People*; and **Ours**, in Particular, *Co-ordinate*; or *Worse*.

I shall add no more; but only Inculcate (as a *Farewel*, and perhaps not altogether Impertinently neither) what *King James* (our *British Solomon*) has said in *Pag.* 179. of His Answer to *Cardinal Peron*. *A Breach made by One Mischief*, (writes He) *must not be fill'd up by a Greater Inconvenience: An Errour must not be shock'd or shoulder'd with Disloyalty; nor Heresy with Perjury; nor Impiety with Sedition, and Armed Rebellion against* God, *and the* King. God, *who used to try, and to school His Church, will never forsake His Church; nor hath need to Protect His Church by any Proditorious Practices of Perfidious* Christians.

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